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Inter-Arab Affairs

Committee on Libya-West Dispute To Meet 13 Feb

NC0402144793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has stated that the seven-member Arab committee tasked with discussing ways to resolve Libya's conflict with the West will meet in Tunis on 13 February.

Following his meeting today with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, al-Bishari expressed hope that this problem will be resolved so that the current blockade imposed against the Libyan people, who are suffering from it, will be lifted.

The seven-member committee was formed in accordance with an Arab League decision. It includes representatives from Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Syria.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Delegation Meets UN Official on Bosnia

LD0402205793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The contact group of the Organization of Islamic Countries [ICO], including representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Senegal, yesterday met with one of the heads of the Yugoslav peace conference, David Owen, at the United Nations.

In the meeting, the viewpoints of the Islamic states about the shortcomings of the UN peace plan on the Bosnian crisis have been discussed.

According to the spokesman for the Iranian representative delegation at the UN, in the meeting the members of the contact group have pointed out that the peace plan does not consider the rights of the Muslims, and this principle that the outcome of the aggression should not be respected has been ignored.

The members of the contact group say that the plan has been prepared with regard to the military victories of the Serbs.

The Islamic states' delegation in the meeting stated that, in the plan, the issue of ethnic cleansing and return of refugees has not been taken to consideration and that does not guarantee Bosnia's political fate and territorial integrity in addition to the fact that there is no such thing in the plan as formation of a national military force.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Stresses 'Radical Solution' on Deportees

JN0402182093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the "With the Local Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] There have been ongoing consultations since the deportation took place, even during the last round. These contacts focused on the question of deportation and its repercussions on the peace process, as well as the legal dimension with regard to the rule of law in the region and the need to implement international legitimacy and respect human rights in the occupied territories, given that the Fourth Geneva Convention should be applied to these territories. We also spoke about the difficulties and defects which have plagued the peace process since it began, and the need to diagnose weak points in the process to overcome them and amend the framework within which we are working, in addition to the role of the sponsoring states. There is also a need to speak about Palestinian-U.S. relations.

[Mu'addi] Yes, did you reach an agreement with the U.S. Administration on a future strategy for the peace process?

['Ashrawi] There is no agreement so far. Many ideas and analyses have been put forward. The visit to the United States has to do with these ideas and suggestions to amend this defect, or try to reach a common understanding of the essence of this process, especially since it has been hit hard as a result of the deportations.

[Mu'addi] What broad outlines are contained in the letter sent by the U.S. State Department to the Palestinians a few days ago?

['Ashrawi] The U.S. letter is related to the details, or dimensions, of the agreement between the United States and Israel, including the U.S. understanding that this issue is within the essence or concept of Resolution 799. We have a basic disagreement on this interpretation and on the entire bargain. We have not accepted this bargain and we explained this to the United States.

[Mu'addi] Does Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi expect the Palestinians to participate if another round of bilateral talks is held?

['Ashrawi] No, because the circumstances have not changed so far. Also, the reasons that made the process falter and stop still exist. We want a radical solution to this issue, as well as to the question of human rights in general and the reasons which caused the peace process to falter, which I mentioned before. If there is a round soon, there will be no Palestinian participation. But I have to note that the multilateral negotiations have been

postponed, as the United States told us. We also do not foresee the possibility of holding a bilateral round any time in the near future.

[Mu'addi] When are you leaving for Washington?

['Ashrawi] I might leave within the next few days.

[Mu'addi] Is there any chance of meeting with Warren Christopher?

['Ashrawi] There are many meetings. We will see if there is a chance to meet with the new secretary of state.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side, thank you very much.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

Palestinians Reported Willing To Compromise

TA0402161993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck]

[Excerpts] It appears that, besides being disappointed by the new U.S. Administration's performance in its first Middle East trial, the Syrians and the Palestinians wish to score political points in the peace process, vis-a-vis the deportee affair. [passage omitted]

Over the past several hours, the Palestinians have been hinting that resuming the official U.S.-PLO dialogue might help revive the peace talks. Under the current circumstances, Palestinian delegation spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi said, there is no chance for the political negotiations to resume before April-May.

At the same time, 'Ashrawi will be leaving for Washington in the next few days in a bid to find, together with the Americans, ways to solve the deportees problem, that is preventing the continuation of the peace process. This evening, 'Ashrawi sent an interesting message to the U.S. Administration, according to which the Palestinians do not adhere to the policy of all-or-nothing regarding the deportees.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, in Arabic] We do not say everything or nothing. We say there are legal bases as well as bases of international legitimacy and human rights, which must be fundamentally addressed. [end recording]

'Ashrawi's remarks seem to mean that the Palestinians are interested in an Israeli pledge to avoid additional deportations in the future, and in receiving an American promise that Israel will be obligated to implement UN resolutions.

'Ashrawi To Urge U.S. To Renew PLO Dialogue

TA0502055993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Palestinian spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi says she will urge the United States to resume the dialogue with the PLO when she meets American officials in Washington shortly. In an interview with Mark Weiss, she said that her visit had been planned some time ago in order to start contacts with the new administration.

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] The subjects to be discussed, of course, include the Palestinian-American bilateral relations. They include also the issue of the deportations and the American-Israeli agreement or deal and the impact of deportations on the peace process as a whole and on the human rights situation in the occupied territories. And, of course, I'll be discussing also the peace process, and the flaws, and the problems, and all the impediments and obstacles that have hindered any genuine progress, to see if we can overcome them and to see if we can try to jump start the peace process in a positive and constructive way.

[Weiss] When, in your opinion, will the talks resume?

['Ashrawi] Well, just so long as this latest obstacle has been removed, and I hope that with serious commitment and goodwill all sides will work towards removing this obstacle, primarily in implementing Security Council Resolution 799.

[Weiss] Will you be urging the new administration to resume the U.S.-PLO dialogue?

['Ashrawi] Well, certainly. This has been an ongoing request, because we feel that there is nothing to be gained by noncommunication, that the PLO is a major party and is representative of the Palestinian people, and that one has to address the people who can deliver, and that certainly would facilitate a genuine peace process—that, as well as discussing other issues that have been pending for some time. [end recording]

'Ashrawi on Publication of Names of Returnees

TA0502110193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] In reaction to the publication of the list of 101 deportees who will be permitted to return, Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, said that the central issue is not this or that individual or the question of how Israel categorizes the deportees. She told our correspondent Gil Litman that the real problem, which is the legality of the deportation act, remains unresolved.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, in English] What I think is that the central issue has not been resolved yet. The issue is the legality of deportation as a whole, so while you have a list of 100 who may be allowed to come back, you have 300 who are not allowed to come back. So we have to deal with it holistically and not in fragments. [end recording]

As for her scheduled trip to the United States, Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the trip had been planned a long time ago but postponed because of the deportee affair.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording in English] No, this has been an already scheduled meeting. We have been working on it for some time, but unfortunately it had to be postponed for a while because of the developments with the deportees. It does not have to do with any immediate or emergency issues or with signaling that we are going or not going. There are ongoing, pending issues that have to be worked out with the Americans, especially in view of the fact that we took a decision to establish a dialogue with a new administration, and this is precisely why I am going to the United States. [end recording]

'Arafat Comments on 'Successful' Visit to Iraq

JN0502110793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Feb 93 pp 1, 19

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has emphasized that peace in the Middle East is not only a Palestinian demand, but also an Arab and international demand.

Before meeting with the approximately 120 Palestine National Council [PNC] members residing in Jordan at martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi's hall in Amman, President 'Arafat told reporters that the interests of all the region's peoples, including Palestinians, Israelis, and Arabs, as well as the people of Europe and the entire world would be in danger if peace is not achieved in our region.

He said: We strongly seek achieving peace despite the fact that the negotiations on the Palestinian track achieved no results. He emphasized that Rabin is responsible for the lack of progress in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Palestinian president urged the United Nations to stop using double standards in implementing its resolutions. He stressed the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799, stipulating the immediate return of the deportees to their homeland.

He asked: How long will the United Nations continue to use a double standard policy? He noted that if the United Nations continues with this policy, the peoples of the world will have many questions about the future of the United Nations as a protector of peace in the world.

'Arafat described his visit to Baghdad as useful and successful. He said that this visit comes within the framework of regaining Arab solidarity to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation now and in the future.

He added that the very existence of our nation is threatened, calling for inter-Arab dialogue in order to remove any differences not only in our present, but also for the future of our children who are threatened by the new world order.

He emphasized the eagerness of the PLO and the Palestinian people to to achieve inter-Arab reconciliation, noting that his visit to Iraq comes within this framework.

He said: We briefed His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the outcome of the Middle East peace negotiations. He stressed that President Saddam encouraged him to continue the peace march.

After he entered martyr Fahd al-Qawasmi's hall, the Palestinian president welcomed the PNC members and emphasized that the wounds of the Gulf war and the divisions that followed it are beginning to heal and disappear, God willing.

He said that his visit to Iraq falls within the framework of this great objective which the masses of the Arab nation need more than any other time before.

PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih welcomed his excellency at the beginning of the meeting, stressing that the PNC members and the Palestinian people want to be reassured about the fate of the deportees and the Palestinian people.

The meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Amr, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, and 'Ali Ishaq, as well as Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee, and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the state of Palestine's ambassador to Jordan.

Views Negotiations, Deportees

JN0502123293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Feb 93 p 16

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat said that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn was aimed at exploring an atmosphere for our Arab nation to transcend the wounds and divisions which the Gulf war inflicted on it and at confronting the new world order so that it is not established at our expense nor at the expense of our children. He added: We have to make a positive contribution to clear the Arab air because otherwise, history will not be merciful to us.

Addressing members of the Palestine National Council in a meeting held yesterday at martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi's hall, he said that the medal that President Saddam decorated him with is not for Yasir 'Arafat, but for the Palestinian people and the Palestinian stones. It is for the people who fight and negotiate.

Talking about the negotiations, President 'Arafat said: We are being asked to give up Jerusalem. However, there is none of us who would give up an iota of Jerusalem's soil. We have maintained our constants.

He said: Our participation in the negotiations prevented the relinquishment of holy Jerusalem. He emphasized that there will be no negotiations before returning the

deportees, saying: This is our final stand. What we seek is a radical solution that will secure a safe return for all the deportees, and not an attempt to circumvent the Security Council resolution or a deal between the United States and Israel.

President 'Arafat said that the United States will veto the Palestinian draft resolution because it does not want to condemn Israel. He said that the Security Council so far refuses to discuss Butrus-Ghali's letter because it includes UN protection for the Palestinian people.

He positively talked about Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Lebanese Government. He said that based on a Palestinian request, the Lebanese Government agreed to close all six crossings so that deportation acts would not be repeated.

He said that the PLO made a large-scale and strong move at the UN Security Council even though it is only an observer there and despite the imbalance between us and the enemy. He said: We have achieved what big powers cannot achieve.

Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee, spoke at the meeting. He said: Our stand toward the issue of the deportees is bearing fruit as the United States requested the postponement of the meetings of the multilateral conference. He said: The negotiating process is as accurate and as important as the military operations.

Al-Husayni denied any contact with the Israelis. He said: Any justified contact will only take place under the consent of the Palestinian leadership.

He said: Events since the start of the peace process proved that the negotiating delegation represents the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

PLO Seeks UN Timetable for Deportees' Return

LD0402213393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has made the following statement: The statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Israeli Knesset yesterday have reaffirmed that the American-Israeli deal on the [Palestinian] deportees was wholly in violation of the Security Council resolution; nor was it a step toward its implementation as stated by the American sources when trying to justify such a deal. Rabin believed, furthermore, that the deal blessed by Israel had nothing to do with the principle of deportation itself, which he said can be used in future because the United States, notwithstanding its opposition to the deportation process, had in fact accepted it on a scale never seen before.

Rabin's statement, as well as his pronouncements on the aims of and the bases for such a deal, shows clearly the serious violation of the Resolution 799, which condemned the principle of deportation as contrary to the Geneva fourth agreement and called for the immediate return of all deportees. The seriousness in Rabin's statement can be found in the fact that the deal with the United States gave legitimacy to the avoidance of implementation of the Security Council resolution and to continuing with the deportation process in future. The U.S. acceptance of the deal is a serious act, by any standard. It will give Israel the opportunity, today and in the future, to benefit from continuous American protection whenever violating Security Council resolutions, the Geneva Convention, and human rights. Furthermore, the seriousness of such a deal is the fact that it was concluded in the absence of the Security Council, in spite of its clear resolution, which does not allow any interpretation. The Palestinian side is the victim of such a crime.

Rabin's statements have reaffirmed, moreover, the dangers of such a deal on the peace process in giving legitimacy to the deportation process and of U.S. acceptance of the latter as a de facto policy. This allows the United States and Israel unilaterally to interpret the Security Council resolutions in such a way that has nothing to do with the intention of their clauses, a matter which might also be detrimental to the Security Council Resolution 242 which has constituted the basis for the peace process.

We are, therefore, urging the American Administration to cancel the deal, calling on the Security Council to convene as soon as possible to take firm measures and draw up a binding timetable for the return of all deportees, particularly following the UN Security Council's assertions that the deal did not meet all the stipulations of Resolution 799. Our stance stems from our concern for international legitimacy and the need to respect the mechanisms of the peace process, for without such a respect the peace process will lose all its justifications and there will be no likelihood that it will continue.

U.S. Interpretation of Resolution 799 Assailed

TA0402163493 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 4 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Contradictions of the U.S. Position"]

[Text] It was natural for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to support his administration's deal with Yitzhaq Rabin's government over the deportees. But it was unnatural and illogical for Mr. Warren to say that this "step" or deal, in its correct interpretation, is compatible with Security Council Resolution 799. How can there be compatibility when this resolution clearly and decisively calls for the immediate return of all the deportees?

There does not exist in this resolution the problem of the notorious definition of "the" as existed in the famous Resolution 242 [defining all or part of the occupied territories according to Arab and Israeli interpretations respectively]. Nor is there more than one contradictory

text, between the European languages, of this new resolution. Moreover, not many years have passed so that there would be numerous interpretations of the resolution. Why then this surprising U.S. "interpretation," which is being promoted throughout the world?

The whole issue is clear to everyone, to the Israeli Government, to the U.S. Administration, and to all the parties concerned. It requires neither interpretation nor clarification. It is the square one that has been there for the last 50 days: Either Resolution 799 is implemented, or international legitimacy will collapse openly with all the ensuing grave repercussions in the region and the entire world.

As long as Washington, which sits at the top of this presumed international legitimacy, keeps abusing the Security Council, the Arab states and peoples at least have the right to break the siege imposed for a long time on Iraq in the name of this legitimacy—a siege that is totally unjust and based on definite aggression.

Perhaps president Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Iraq will open an Arab path for removing this siege from fraternal Iraq, leading to a new Arab stage of solidarity to confront the U.S. bias in favor of Israel.

Hamas Spokesman on Deportees, Other Issues

PM0502135193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Feb 93 p 5

['Ali al-Salih report: "Ibrahim Ghawshah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Israel Is Trying To Conceal Its Security Failure; We Reject Deportees' Return in Stages"]

[Text] London—Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has refused to confirm or deny Israel's allegations with regard to the case of the three Palestinians holding U.S. nationality arrested by the occupation authorities in the occupied territories last week on charges of membership in Hamas and of acting as liaison officers between its members inside and outside [the occupied territories]. He said: "Hamas has not crystallized a position on this issue yet. It is studying the situation."

He said: "Actually Israel concealed the arrest operation for over a week. The aim in announcing it now is to eclipse the successful operation carried out by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions in Khan Yunus early in the week."

Ghawshah, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from his house in the Jordanian capital, added that "Israel is trying to persuade public opinion inside the Zionist entity that the occupation authorities are capable of watching over security. This is in the knowledge that the Khan Yunus operation, in which two Israeli soldiers were killed, was a success in terms of planning and implementation."

Asked about Hamas' position on the proposal to return the deportees in stages, Ghawshah said: "The brother deportees reject this proposal. And what 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said actually reflects Hamas' unified position urging patience until all deportees return to their homes." He added that "the United States, Israel, and some of the parties which are alarmed at the suspension of the peace process are trying to resolve the issue by dividing it into three parts."

On the visit which Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid intends to pay to the deportees within the framework of Arab solidarity, he said, "we welcome Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's visit because we want the Arab League representative to see the issue at firsthand. And we are certain that he will come out of the visit with high morale and a stronger and more resolute Arab position."

The official spokesman for Hamas denied that "there could be any disagreement between the movement's leadership inside and its leadership abroad." He emphasized that "the brother deportees in Lebanon and the mujahidin in the occupied territories are all united at present in putting pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and exposing his true colors." He went on to say: "Strong pressure is being exerted on the fatal error, that is, the deportation decision, committed by Rabin in order to make him pay a heavy price: first the deportees' return; second, the possibility of his government being toppled."

Asked whether Hamas would attend a seminar whose proceedings begin in the Iranian capital today and in which a number of organizations from some Arab states are to take part, he said: "Our movement has no knowledge of such a meeting, nor have we received an invitation to attend it, that is, if it exists. But meetings will be held on the sidelines of the celebrations marking the Iranian revolution anniversary, which our representative might attend."

On Israeli Deputy Ya'el Dayan's meeting with some PLO leaders, first and foremost Yasir 'Arafat, and the statements made by Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to 'Arafat, in Cairo on the numerous requests which the PLO has received to meet with a number of Israeli leaders in the wake of the Knesset decision to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO, he said: "We had hoped that the brothers in Fatah would carry out jihad operations in the occupied territories on its 28th anniversary." He added: "In fact we view with amazement and a kind of disapproval the trading of the Palestinian people's deportation for the normalization of relations with Israel, whether by requesting to meet with Rabin or with Moshe Dayan's daughter, especially as it was Rabin and her father, Dayan, who inflicted the 1948 and 1967 defeats on us."

He went on: "The attempts to spotlight present or future meetings between entity of the Zionist symbols and the PLO are, in our view, strange and not in line with the

heroic jihad operations and popular intifadah moves in the occupied territories. Nor are they in line with the features of the steadfastness and struggle being displayed by the brother deportees in southern Lebanon or the Arab, Islamic, and world support and solidarity."

PLO's Message To Warren Christopher Viewed

TA0402175593 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Policy of Expulsion and the Political Indications"]

[Text] The PLO has sent a message to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in which it emphasized the need to convene the Security Council to secure the return of all the Palestinian deportees in accordance with Resolution 799, and rejected any sort of selective deals. This message reaffirms our people's determination to uproot the Israeli threat of individual or collective expulsion and to prevent Israel and its leadership from extricating themselves with the minimum possible damage from the Marj al-Zuhur dilemma.

Moreover, the stance announced by the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman in Jordan as well as by the spokesman of the deportees themselves following the voting that they held is totally in line with the leadership's stance, which is the stance of the entire Palestinian people. This land is the homeland of every Palestinian regardless of his political tendencies. No Israeli or U.S. policy, nor those who dance to its tunes, can succeed in breaking up our internal unity.

As for the statement by U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher that arrangements are being made to send invitations for convening a new round of bilateral negotiations between the Arabs and Israel—as if nothing has happened and as if the U.S. proposal is acceptable to all the parties, especially the Palestinian side whose problem is the core of the conflict in the Middle East—is an attempt at hinting that nothing will stand before the designs of the United States in the region or its pampered child, Rabin. This is a regrettable indication of the new U.S. Administration's policy in the Middle East.

Uruguayan Daily Interviews 'Arafat

PY0302190293 Montevideo BRECHA in Spanish 29 Jan 93 p 30

["Exclusive" interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Isabel Pisano; place and date not given]

[Text] [Pisano] How are things in Washington?

['Arafat] Just as I imagined. Rabin is a general, that is, he is a soldier. He is a general who seeks to be involved in politics without losing sight of his expansionist mentality. He speaks well, he is convincing, but in fact he implements policies that are identical to those of Shamir.

[Pisano] Is he fulfilling his electoral promises?

['Arafat] He has forgotten them all. Not only that, but he has authorized Israeli Army special units—in civilian clothes—to infiltrate the Palestinian population and carry out all kinds of crimes against our people and holy places. There is a big difference between commitment and peace. Rabin only wants a commitment. He cannot forget that during the siege of Beirut he was not in government, yet nevertheless he accompanied Sharon in the slaughter of our children and Lebanese children. He continued the policy of settlements in Gaza and the West Bank after obtaining a $10 billion loan guarantee from the United States, in violation of all agreements. Then he offered us a project, a plan that speaks of an administrative council which has nothing to do with the provisional government and which contradicts the letter of invitation and guarantees sent by the United States to begin the negotiations. The plan speaks of local administration and local elections but it does not mention legislative elections. Above all, we are not able to discuss the future of Jerusalem. Do you think Muslims and Christians can accept this? Who can deny us the right to speak about Jerusalem?

[Pisano] The Israelis maintain that UN Resolution 242 is not applicable to the occupied territories.

['Arafat] But where would they apply it then? We are faced with a dead end. Rabin is destroying the principles that support the peace process and rejecting international protection for Palestinians. He rejects legislative elections and violates all international treaties. He does not want peace with Palestinians. He only wants to normalize his country's relations with the other Arab countries at our expense. I need an Israeli Charles de Gaulle, someone capable of making peace with the enemy.

[Pisano] Does this mean that al-Sadat's death did not serve any purpose and that we are in a new Camp David?

['Arafat] Rabin has not learned anything from history. The Israeli people did not vote for him, but for peace. Shamir himself has recognized this: The Israeli people are tired of fighting for "Greater Israel." At Camp David, Begin, al-Sadat, and Carter said "no more war" [preceding three words in English]. But how many conflicts have exploded since then? I have said this and I will repeat it a thousand times: There will be no peace without the Palestinian people, there will be no stability if our rights are trampled upon. We are not asking for the impossible, only that international legality be respected. Just as Bush has said: "Peace in exchange for territories" and the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, that is, the return of all Arab and Palestinian territories—including East Jerusalem—that were occupied during the 1967 war, and security for everyone in the region.

[Pisano] What do you expect from Bill Clinton?

['Arafat] A normalization of relations with us. We have maintained excellent relations with Democrats as well as with Republicans.

[Pisano] Syria and Israel are seeking a separate agreement and you continue to call President al-Asad a "brother."

['Arafat] There is nothing to stop me calling a brother "brother." I do not think Syrians are willing to accept a solution that excludes us, but it is obvious that this is what the Israelis are trying to do.

[Pisano] Allow me, Mr. President, to venture an opinion, but Arabs sometimes behave quite ambiguously. What is President al-Asad's real attitude?

['Arafat] We will just have to wait and see.

[Pisano] Do you believe that the wave of anti-Semitism currently raging through Europe is fair?

['Arafat] Not long ago, Palestinians and Jews staged a demonstration in Rome to condemn the spawning of anti-Semitic pockets. This is proof that both peoples can walk side by side. I personally condemn anti-Semitism and organizations that advocate it. These movements indicate that instability not only reigns in the Middle East but also in other continents.

[Pisano] You formerly wanted to meet Shamir in Rome. Now you have proposed to hold a meeting with Rabin. Do you think this is a viable proposal?

['Arafat] I am willing to meet whoever can help my people.

[Pisano] Rumor has it that should elections be held in Palestine, fundamentalists would win. And yet, in Bir Zayt your ticket won and fundamentalists did not manage to get even one seat.

['Arafat] I do not think the fundamentalists stand a chance of prevailing in Palestine. According to several public opinion polls, the Islamic movement would only poll 12 percent of the ballots. Moreover, it is common knowledge that these movements are financed by emirates from the Persian Gulf and by Iran. If the country went to the polls tomorrow, we would win. If the peace talks fail, however, my forecast would no longer hold good.

[Pisano] The condition of Jordan's King Husayn has worsened, there is some talk about his successor. In his latest televised speech, the king prepared his subjects for his imminent abdication. Crown Prince Hasan is more of a westerner than an Arab. Do you believe that Israel's dream of sending Palestinians to Jordan will finally come true?

['Arafat] King Husayn's health is not so poor as you say, at least that is what I have been told. I will answer your question by quoting my brother Husayn: Jordan is not—and will never be—Palestine. I must remind you that there are religious fanatics ready and waiting for the attack, not just in Jordan but in the whole Arab world. If peace negotiations fail the fundamentalist wave will swoop on the whole region.

[Pisano] Saudi Arabia and the emirates used to fund the PLO. How do you stand with them now?

['Arafat] We are trying to heal old wounds caused by a war that we Arabs did not want.

[Pisano] There is some talk about a possible successor. Have you thought about 'Arafat's successor?

['Arafat] The PLO has a National Council. You, yourself, have attended some of our council meetings. It is from there that my successor will come into prominence. Never fear, my people are much greater than its leader.

[Pisano] Going back to the subject of Saudi Arabia, its decision to fund fundamentalist groups does not seem to be an appropriate course of action ...

['Arafat] No, it is not. And neither is that proposed by the nations of the Persian Gulf. They finance these groups with money that belongs to Palestinians. Five percent of the national budget is made up of Palestinian money, which should be channeled to the occupied territories. But they have adopted an irrational and totally unjustifiable stance—which is a political trap set by the Americans to cause chaos in the region. This has nothing to do with the Persian Gulf war, because they stopped sending money, which belongs to the Palestinian people, to these groups in February 1990.

[Pisano] Israel contends that it has serious misgivings about having a Palestine state as a neighboring country.

['Arafat] How can the most heavily armed country in the world be afraid of a little Palestinian state? The Palestinian people must recover their identity and, by the same token, unless Israel wants to keep living in a ghetto, it will have to opt for economic and political cooperation; Israel must be totally integrated in Middle East structures.

[Pisano] Do guerrillas ever retire?

['Arafat] For people like me there is no retirement possible. We shall either overcome or die. Peace will be our victory.

New Party Linked to 'Abd-Rabbuh Wing of DFLP

PM0402155193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Feb 93 p 3

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qalaybi report: "Palestinian Sources: 'Abd-Rabbuh's Wing of the Democratic Front is Behind the New Party in the Occupied Territory"]

[Text] Tunis—Informed Palestinian sources have confirmed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's 1 February report about the plan to form a new party in the occupied

territory. The party's formation will be announced 20-24 February and it will have its headquarters in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank and will be called the Palestinian Democratic Union (Fida').

Although nothing has been announced about the group behind the party, the Palestinian sources emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the group which is actively and effectively behind the party in the occupied territory is Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], which calls itself the Renewal and Democracy Wing.

Some Palestinian figures who attended the PLO Executive Committee's recent meeting in Tunis told AL-SHARQ Al-AWSAT that at the beginning of the meeting Yasir 'Arafat said that a new party was about to be formed in the occupied territory. Then he wondered whose party it was. He did not get an answer when he addressed the question to 'Abd-Rabbuh and then to Taysir Khalid, representative of [Nayif] Hawatimah's wing of the DFLP, who said "it is not ours, it is its own party." There was loud laughter in the hall. A prominent official of the Renewal Wing has confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his group was the active group behind the new organization. He added that the constituent assembly, which will meet in the next few weeks, will name the top leadership of Fida', and therefore it is premature to talk about specific leadership names.

The official, who wished to remain anonymous, said that the Palestinian Democratic Union was a modified form of the Democratic Front, a manifestation of democratic principles, and a step in harmony with the need to move the focus of Palestinian national action to the interior.

He also said that the new party's membership requirements will be flexible without ideological commitment but with commitment to the party's political aims and program.

That program advocates defeat of the occupation, independence, repatriation in accordance with UN resolutions, defense of the social and democratic interests of all classes and sectors of the population, wider representation of these sectors, and correction and development of the national course of the intifadah.

The new party's program reaffirms the right to resort to all types of struggle to end the occupation. It also puts emphasis on developing the intifadah and popular action. That, the official affirmed, is "not in contrast with other forms of struggle."

Regarding the position of the Palestinian Democratic Union on the peace negotiations, the official said that "the new party is a partner in the current negotiations and will be represented in the PLO's Palestine National Council, Central Council, Executive Commitee, and other PLO committees and institutions."

He revealed that 'Abd-Rabbuh will be the Palestinian Democratic Union's representative in the PLO Executive Committee.

He also said that extensive dialogues and discussions were under way with numerous democratic forces about the new party's draft program and that a preparatory committee was making arrangements for the constituent assembly. That committee consists of Zuhayrah Kamal, Sami Kaylani, Sam'an Khuri, Nazmi al-Ju'bah, Siham Barghuthi, Walid Zaqut, and Mariam Shakhshir.

Algeria

Former Foreign Minister Explains Resignation

PM0502160993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 93 pp 1, 4

[Randah Taqiyy-al-Din report: "Brahimi Tells AL-HAYAH: "I Resigned Because I Want To 'Stay Away for a While'"]

[Excerpts] Paris, Algiers, AL-HAYAH—The Algerian presidency yesterday, Wednesday, announced a limited cabinet reshuffle in the government of Belaid Abdessalam, the most notable feature of which is the departure of Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi from the cabinet team and his replacement by Higher State Council member Redha Malek.

AL-HAYAH has learned from well-informed sources in Algiers and Paris that it was Brahimi who asked to step down, and that he submitted his resignation to the prime minister two weeks ago."

The sources, which AL-HAYAH contacted from the French capital, said that Brahimi said that the reasons for submitting his resignation were "difficulties he is facing in carrying out his daily work and tasks."

The sources said that he "used to suffer from problems which used to occur during his diplomatic missions outside Algeria, as counterorders used to be issued to obstruct his decisions." [passage omitted]

Contacted by AL-HAYAH, Brahimi said: "It was I who asked to leave the Foreign Ministry, because I need to stay away (from politics) for a while in order to have enough time to think."

Asked whether he was alarmed by what had happened, he replied: "No... not at all." [passage omitted]

FLN Secretary General on Relations With State Council

NC0502103893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, 5 Feb (MENA)—Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN], has said the FLN stance on the Higher State Council [HSC] has not changed since February 1992. He said the front is fully prepared to help the HSC solve Algeria's problems through a dialogue organized by the council.

In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent in Algiers, Mehri pointed out that HSC Chairman Ali Kafi admitted in a speech on 14 January that the crisis the country is enduring requires a comprehensive political solution through dialogue. He remarked that is an essential point of agreement.

He said the front believes all the political powers in Algeria should be involved in the dialogue so that all the problems can be solved.

Mehri called for using the remaining year of the transitional period to provide favorable conditions for restoring normality to Algeria.

He said the front presented its vision of the post-transitional period, to begin in late 1993, to the HSC. He said temporary institutions cannot resolve the complex issues and that the country must return to a constitutional life in which the people are involved and share responsibility for tackling the various issues.

Asked whether the Algerian Government can continue if agreement is reached through dialogue, he said it is the program, not the makeup, of the government that counts, because the makeup is secondary, requiring popular consensus so that all Algerians at home can be mobilized and the state can win the confidence of those abroad.

Abdelhamid Mehri said constitutional amendment is not urgent or a prerequisite for returning to constitutional life. What counts is to demonstrate respect for and enforcement of the existing Constitution. When normality is restored and ordinary institutions are established, the issue of constitutional amendment can be considered, he said.

Touching on a conflict of identity in Algeria, the FLN secretary general said the issue of identity and the original culture and its interaction with foreign cultures is being considered. He said this issue goes back to the French colonial period, in which certain cultural molds were imposed by force on the Algerian people. He remarked that this made it incumbent on intellectuals and politicians to handle the issue with some confidence and objectivity.

Mehri denied that there are any contacts between the front and the HSC, but noted that contacts between the council and the various parties are expected to resume.

Human Rights Watchdog Group Condemns Excesses

LD0502061293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Kamel Razak Bara, the president of the National Human Rights Monitoring Group, condemned the new way of [word indistinct] human rights, which has appeared in the country and which consists in the physical elimination of the members of the security forces and civilians. Razak Bara announced that the monitoring group has had contacts with the government with a view to adopting ways aimed at assisting families without income whose bread winners are still detained in one of the camps. The president of the National Human Rights Monitoring Group indicated that following the implementation of the anti-terrorism law, the National

Human Rights Monitoring Group had informed the Higher State Council about some of the excesses registered in the implementation of this law, including the inclination to exceed the period of custody during investigation and its prolongation in some cases, as well as committing infractions related to common law and search operations without warrants. As regards maltreatment, Mr. Bara pointed out that the cases that the National Human Rights Monitoring Group is aware of are not more than 10.

Egypt

Musa Talks With Christopher About Deportees

NC0402163293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that he and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher talked by phone today about the developments in the Palestinian deportees issue and that agreement was reached to postpone the meetings of the multilateral committees and to wait until April to set a date for them.

The foreign minister asserted that Egypt will continue its efforts to bring about the quickest possible return of the deportees.

He also stressed that Israel's decision to allow 100 deportees to return is not a solution nor the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799, but merely a step on the right road. This is because starting to return the deportees is the correct way to resolve the issue and a signal that the Israeli Government has begun to realize that the Geneva conventions and international law must be respected, that deportations are illegal, and that what is legal is returning all the deportees to their lands, respecting the Geneva conventions, and avoiding such measures in the future.

Musa said that Egypt supports UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali's efforts and his report on the deportees, adding that Butrus-Ghali's position is sound.

The foreign minister noted that contacts are under way with Britain to work to return all the deportees. He stressed the importance of EC support for the peace process, the principle of land in return for peace, the principle of Israel's withdrawal, and the deportees' return. He said that he discussed these issues today with the Danish ambassador in Cairo, whose country currently chairs the European Community.

He also said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo in the coming two days to discuss the deportees' issue and efforts to establish peace in the region.

Musa said talks now are under way to set a date for the meeting of the Hala'ib committee. He also noted that contacts are under way with Japan to set the date for President Husni Mubarak's visit to that country.

[Cairo Arabic Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 1500 GMT on 4 February adds the following: "Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that he talked by phone today with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher about the Palestinian deportees issue. He said an agreement was reached to postpone the meetings of the multilateral talks committees and to wait until April to set a date for them. He also said that the bilateral talks will be postponed until April."]

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives To Discuss Deportees

NC0502105793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1037 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Amman today for a visit of several days during which he will hold talks on the Palestinian deportees.

Engineer Jamal al-Sayyid, minister of state for war production, and Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal received him at the airport.

U.S. Credibility Said To Hinge on Deportees Issue

NC0502111693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has called for unifying Arab positions to form a strong front to increase pressure on the United Nations and make it play a more effective role in resolving the issue of the Palestinian deportees, particularly in light of reports about joint U.S.-Israeli efforts to thwart any attempt to impose sanctions on Israel for its intransigence and refusal to comply with Security Council Resolution 799.

In its editorial today, the paper says Cairo is the only Arab capital qualified to play a vital role in such fateful issues, because of its good relations with all the parties concerned and its regional and international political and cultural influence.

AL-AHRAM adds: The peace process is founded on recognizing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. If Israel refuses to comply fully with Resolution 799, this will cast doubts on the future of the peace process, because it might imply that it will not adhere to Resolutions 242 and 338. What strengthens these doubts is Israel's refusal to implement Resolution 425 calling for its withdrawal from south Lebanon.

The paper voices the hope that the United States will consider current international attitudes to this issue and that Israel's conduct is not being denounced by the Arabs and Palestinians alone, but also by many international parties, even some of its close friends in Western Europe and among U.S. allies.

AL-AHRAM concludes by noting that the world is certain the United States has the means to pressure and

influence and that the credibility of the U.S. role hinges on the new U.S. Administration's ability to deal with the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

Ties With Iran Said Improving After Mediation

NC0402151393 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—AL-WAFD newspaper published the following report in today's edition:

Egyptian-Iranian relations currently are witnessing relaxation in the wake of successful mediation efforts to bring the two sides' views closer together. Diplomatic sources in Cairo have affirmed that Syrian and Lebanese efforts are continuing to contain the differences between Cairo and Tehran. The sources noted that this mediation has succeeded in alleviating tension between the two countries.

Syria and Lebanon have told Cairo that the Iranian side is willing to normalize relations between the two countries and that Iran will comply with Egypt's conditions, including that pertaining to noninterference in domestic affairs.

The diplomatic sources said that the Syrian-Lebanese efforts currently focus on arranging Egyptian-Iranian meetings at various levels. The meetings aim at laying a new foundation that would prevent any new setback in relations.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Ahmad Namiq, head of the Egyptian interests section in Tehran, has denied that he has been asked to return to his post in Tehran. He pointed out, however, that all signs indicate that the mediation efforts have been successful between the two countries since Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani voiced his wish to establish good relations with Egypt.

Musa Receives Somali Faction Delegation Head

NC0402183393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with 'Abdirahman Farah, head of a delegation representing Mohamed Farah Aidid's Somali National Alliance.

Following the meeting, Farah said they discussed the developments in Somalia, indicating that the situation there is calm.

Farah said that the reconciliation conference scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa on 15 March will discuss ways of achieving national reconciliation. All the Somali factions will attend this conference, after which a national government will be formed.

Three Korean Tourists Reported Injured by Bomb

NC0402152293 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, Feb 4 (AFP) - Three South Korean tourists were injured Thursday [4 February] when suspected Muslim extremists threw a petrol bomb at them outside their hotel near the Pyramids, police said.

The three were slightly injured in the attack which happened as they waited on a bus outside their hotel in Giza, on the main road from Cairo to the Pyramids.

The bus and a police car were damaged.

Police arrested two of the attackers in the third such incident on the Pyramids road in a month. Other members of the gang managed to escape.

Muslim fundamentalists have carried out a string of attacks against tourists, causing a major slump in Egypt's vital tourist trade.

'Source' Denies Tourists Injured

NC0402153393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—An authoritative source has denied foreign news agency reports about what happened today in al-Haram [Pyramids] Street. The source said that in fact, there was nothing more to the incident than what MENA reported.

The authoritative source said it was a minor incident and that there were no casualties, contrary to what some new agencies—which apparently depend on freelance correspondents unqualified for journalistic work—reported.

A certain news agency has reported that two tourists were injured. Another news agency reported that a tourist bus was attacked.

The source stressed that there were no tourists whatsoever in that area today. The incident was a desperate attempt by terrorists to prove they still exist now that the police have tightened the noose around them.

The source also stressed that no one was injured in the incident.

Police Arrest Second 'Terrorist'

NC0402160193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—The police this afternoon arrested the second of three terrorists who hurled three crude bombs on al- Haram [Pyramids] Street. There were no casualties or damage in the incident. Police are continuing their efforts to apprehend the third terrorist.

The three terrorists are well-known criminals wanted by the police for committing several crimes and acts of terrorism.

Islamic Group Claims Attack

NC0402212493 Paris AFP in English 2055 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, Feb 4 (AFP)—A Muslim extremist group on Thursday [4 February] warned foreign tourists to keep away from the pyramids of Giza, hours after a petrol-bomb attack in which three South Koreans were slightly wounded.

The underground al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group], in a telephone call to AFP in the Islamic fundamentalist hotbed of Asyut in southern Egypt, claimed responsibility for the attack.

"Tourists are not being targeted as such but it's a way of pressuring the government to secure the release of our brothers unjustly imprisoned last week," in Asyut and the Cairo districts of Imbabah and Hulwan, the caller said.

The group warned tourists "not to go to certain sensitive spots such as the pyramids and the Asyut region."

Three South Koreans were wounded by flying glass as assailants hurled petrol bombs at their bus outside the Europa Hotel on the road to the pyramids, witnesses said.

They received first aid on the spot under the eyes of top police officers, and an official quoted by the Egyptian news agency MENA confirmed the South Koreans were not hospitalized.

The attack took place as tourists prepared to board a bus outside their hotel in Giza, on the main road from Cairo to the pyramids. The bus and a police escort car were damaged. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Leads Anti-UN Demonstration

LD0402142293 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] today led a huge students demonstration of anger in Tripoli. Thousands of students participated and expressed indignation at the UN, the falsification of international law, and the intention to humiliate the Arab nation.

The masses of angry students chanted slogans calling for the downfall of the UN Security Council for its pursuance of a racist-colonialist policy, and described it as an instrument of colonialism seeking to humiliate the Arabs. They said it is more like a NATO destructive tool imposing resolutions on them by force.

The masses underlined in their slogans their absolute support for the Palestinian people's struggle to liberate the whole of their usurped land from the river to the sea. They called for the return of the 4 million Palestinians, not only the return of the 400, and for the return of the occupiers to the countries from which they came, stressing that this is the return for which we struggle, and that the cause is that a whole people and a nation threatened with danger, as well as being the cause of 400 deportees.

The angry masses called on the Arab states not to heed Security Council anti-Arab resolutions. They also called on the sons of the Arab people to unite, because the Arabs are threatened with annihilation. They appealed to the Arab nation, its soldiers and peasants, to work for the realization of this unity in order to confront the danger of annihilation hanging over their nation.

The demonstrating masses held banners saying "Down with the false UN Security Council," "To hell with the UN," "The Security Council is a farce," "The Zionists are above international law," "Rescue the deportees from the frost," "The Arabs should join the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and not the UN which has no mercy for them."

The angry demonstration toured the streets of Tripoli and stopped at the Palestine embassy, then headed for the UN headquarters in Tripoli, where it massed in expression of its indignation and anger at the UN.

Al-Qadhdhafi 4 Feb Speech on World Issues

NC0502071593 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2007 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to high school students at a conference hall in Tripoli on 4 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The problem of the hour now is the political one, which in fact affects the issues we are talking about. It affects oil, water, people's existence, unity, the lack of unity, and so on. The Arabs, without unity... [pauses] As I told you about unity, if we are only allowed to go to the Nile Valley, then this is unity. We only want two things from the Arabs: economic unity and joint defense. If there is aggression against the Arab homeland from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf, then all the Arabs should confront it. That's all we want.

We also tell them that if an Arab country commits the aggression, then do not side with it. If Libya attacks Italy—although this is legitimate because there is a vendetta between us—even if we undertake this legitimate act, then the Arabs should not side with us. But if Italy commits aggression against Libya, then all the Arabs should side with Libya. If Zionism commits aggression against Palestine, then all the Arabs should side with Palestine. If India, for example, commits aggression against Muscat and Oman, then all the Arabs should side with Muscat and Oman. If Turkey commits aggression against Syria, then all the Arabs should side with Syria. That's what we want from the Arabs: economic unity and joint defense when there is foreign aggression. The amir will remain an amir, the sultan a sultan, the king a king, and the president a president, but

agree on joint defense and on economic unity; that is, no customs borders—borders that ban citizens, goods, residency, or employment. This is Arab unity.

Between Libya, Egypt, and Syria, we can possibly have at least this economic unity in our hands. This would be a great victory. The Sudanese, Egyptians, and Syrians now are applying economic unity along with you. They are in Libya, residing, working, owning, and joining the popular congresses because this is a political right. But you are not benefiting from this. A Sudanese can come to Libya and have the right to live and work and share everything with you. This is good because Sudan should belong to Libyans in the same way as Libya should belong to the Sudanese. You go ahead and let us go to Sudan. Our brothers from Egypt come to Libya as if they are Libyans. Good. Open a factory in Egypt, start a farm, a coffee shop on the Nile. The important thing is that there is water there. If you do not benefit from this—that is, allow the Egyptians, Sudanese, Syrians, and Iraqis to come here while you are not going there to benefit—then go back home and think about it and decide.

The Arab nation is facing a danger. The West is making Turkey hostile toward the Arabs. The water that comes to the Arab countries of the Fertile Crescent is in the hands of a power that is hostile toward the Arabs. These are all plots. They are inciting against us in Chad, Senegal, the Negroes of southern Sudan, Turkey, and Iran. All of these are plots by Zionism and imperialism aimed at weakening the Arab nation so the Zionist enemy can grow and become stronger. This entity, in fact, currently possesses nuclear bombs while we are banned from having a nuclear or even a nonnuclear bomb. They are lying in wait for us. The Libyans are banned from even buying a rifle. There is a siege now. We bought rifles from China and paid for them, but we can't bring them to Libya. Why? Because Libya is banned from buying weapons while the Israelis possess nuclear bombs but there is no embargo against them.

They came out recently with the deportees farce. We are not demanding the return of just the 400 Palestinian deportees, but of the Palestinian people—not just the 400, but the 4 million. They made the deportation of the 400 an issue. Where is the trick? It is that they return—that is, if they decide to allow them to return—so that the Israelis will appear as if they have implemented the Security Council resolution. Brothers, how many serious resolutions have they not implemented? Suppose they implement the resolution on the deportees. Where then, is the resolution on withdrawing from the West Bank, Gaza, and south Lebanon? Where are the serious resolutions that must be implemented? They want to make us forget these resolutions, and they might deceive us. No one has told you this, but we are telling you today and publishing it in our media that all this maneuvering and intransigence is meant to let them come in the end and say: Israel has complied with the Security Council resolution. So what do you say, O Arabs? Libya has to comply and not argue. Iraq has to comply and not argue. Here is Israel complying with the Security Council resolution. Is it only one resolution, 799? There are 50 resolutions against Israel. We will not clap if the Israelis comply with this resolution. This could be a mere maneuver.

This entire thing may be merely a gimmick, and we are being made into fools. We call on Israel to implement all UN Security Council resolutions. The UN Security Council has a duty to impose sanctions on Israel until it implements all the 50 resolutions that it issued [against it], not just one. Otherwise, we should have no respect for UN Security Council resolutions or the United Nations. This is a farce, a charade.

The United Nations, as I told you before, is made up of the nations that united against Hitler. Its name, the United Nations, is a reference to the nations that united against Germany during World War II. They made armed forces for it, under the command of Dwight Eisenhower, who later became a President of America. This is how he used to sign his name: Dwight Eisenhower, general commander of the Armed Forces of the United Nations, that is to say: the nations that united against Hitler. These are: America, Britain, and France. These three Western countries, plus Russia, under Stalin, entered into an alliance against Hitler.

This is the United Nations. After they beat Germany, destroyed it and partitioned it. Germany has once again risen and is now a fourth world power, despite them. They turned these united nations [the allies] into the United Nations. The forces led by Eisenhower formed NATO, which became a tool of the UN Security Council and the United Nations.

They hit Iraq with the NATO forces and claimed that the allied forces [acted against Iraq] with a UN mandate. [This is] a forgery.

They [the major powers] said to us: You, countries of the Third World—the small, frightened, and despised nations—please come and join us in the United Nations. We said: What is the United Nations? Of course, we did not know what this new organization was about. They said: The United Nations is an organization entrusted to safeguard world peace. We applauded. This is great. Is there an organization now being founded to protect world peace? They said: Yes, the United Nations. It also prevents aggression.

[We asked:] Does this mean that Italy cannot wage a surprise attack against Libya, as happened in 1911? They said: No. France cannot attack Algeria, as it did in 1830? They said: No. Britain cannot surprise attack Egypt, as it did in 1882? They said: No. It is over. There will be no further aggression. The United Nations will prevent aggression against nations.

We were pleased. We said: Since colonialism will not be repeated and no aggression will take place against us.... [sentence as heard] We said: How does it prevent [aggression]? They said: It has a council, called the Security

Council. We were pleased to see that it has a tool with which to implement [its policy].

[We asked:] What does the UN Security Council do? They said: The Security Council is responsible for security. It convenes immediately and prevents aggression. Accordingly, all of us went ahead and joined the United Nations.

What happened then? It has turned into a sword hanging over our necks. It has turned into colonialism and ultimately into a tool of destruction. The Iraqi people are being exterminated and the Libyan people are being strangled. The entire Arab nation is now living under UN terror. Meanwhile, the Israelis are being protected by the UN Security Council.

Well, this is how it was. You [major powers] said: Come and join us in the United Nations. [We say:] You were supposed to treat us right. The assumption was that there was going to be no aggression against us and that we were going to be treated right. We joined an organization with which we had nothing in common to start with. They were the nations united against Hitler. It became a sword hanging over our necks and a tool of our destruction.

What we are saying today is this: What, in the first place, made us join you [major powers], in the United Nations, giving you the opportunity to impose its decisions on us? We could have stayed outside the United Nations. You lied to us and told us that this [organization is founded] to protect you, protect peace, and end aggression. It [the United Nations] has become an instrument of aggression against us and an instrument for our destruction.

The Security Council has now replaced colonialism. The colonialist countries used to decide and execute decisions directly. Now they (?refer) issues to the Security Council to implement resolutions. Is it reasonable that what is happening in Iraq is being done by the United Nations, by 150 countries? Is it reasonable that the Namibian, Laotian, Colombian, Malawi, and Luxembourg's peoples are angry with Iraq and want to destroy it? Some of these peoples do not even know where Iraq is. What is this nonsense? They say these are the international alliance forces and that the United Nations decided this. Would the United Nations decide to partition Iraq into three parts and prevent it from taking any action?. Do you see the farce? Today they thank Iraq and say it has become wise and poised and is getting along with the peace plan. They say Iraq turned off its radar inside its territory and the colonialist countries' aircraft can now overfly Iraq without being spotted by Iraqi radars. This happens inside Iraq, where the Iraqis turned off their radar and cannot see the aircraft that can now fly anywhere over Iraq. When the radar was turned on it was at least like a television screen and the Iraqis could spot foreign aircraft. Iraq can turn on its radar and spot foreign aircraft, but it has no right to resist them. This is the situation, although Iraq has the right to resist. It must resist them. But it is forced to oblige. Aircraft fly over north and south Iraq and around Baghdad. Even if they fly over Baghdad and Iraq shoots at the aircraft, they would say that Iraq violated the UN resolutions. Is it reasonable that a United Nations should tell a country not to operate its radar inside its territory and let other countries' aircraft fly over it without intercepting them? What sort of United Nations would say such a thing? What farce is this?

They thank Iraq and say it behaves. It turned off its radar and now the Iraqis can see the aircraft only with the naked eye. But when they spotted the aircraft on a radar screen, this was considered an aggression and violation. Iraq is being violated to the greatest extent possible. They [the allies] broke it into three pieces. They overfly it. They shell it with cruise missiles. This is not [considered] a violation. But if Iraq were to turn on its radars, this would be [considered] a violation. Look at this farce, this charade, in which the Arabs have gotten involved. Actually, the Arab leaders have gotten us involved in this farce. Is it reasonable to partition an Arab country? When this involved Kuwait, we said it was a mistake. They all stood up against Iraq and it withdrew from Kuwait, recognized it as an independent state, said that it would never again claim it, and recognized the border with it. They even annexed parts of Iraq to Kuwait. We have finished with this story. What has this to do with the partition of Iraq and its being banned from operating its radars and from resisting aircraft overflying it? Could this have happened anywhere else? What independent country is overflown by planes of other countries and does not intercept them? Any plane of any foreign country, even civilian, that enters [a country's airspace] without permission, it is intercepted; if it does not obey, it is shot down, even if it is loaded with angels or prophets. All of them have shot down civilian planes over their territory because these planes passed [through their airspace] without permission. The Soviet Union shot down a Korean plane full of innocent passengers. Why? They said: By God, it flew through Soviet airspace without permission and we shot it down. The Americans, not in their land, but in the Gulf, where their Navy ships were deployed...[sentence incomplete as heard] An Iranian plane full of passengers flew over and they shot it down. They said: What do we care? It may have innocent passengers, children, women, elderly. It flew over our Navy ships without permission. They shot it down and said: It is over. This is a normal matter.

When a Libyan airliner full of Arab—Egyptian and Libyan—passengers flew over Sinai in 1970 or 1971, the Israelis who were occupying the area through unjust aggression shot it down. Why? They said it overflew a prohibited area. It was not even their land. It was occupied Egyptian territory. When warplanes overfly Iraq's territory and capital, Iraq is prevented from resisting them. What a farce. They say... [pauses] The English say that there is no need... [pauses] English prime minister [al-ra'is al-injlizi hadha] says: There is no need to impose sanctions against the Israelis. What good can these [sanctions] do? You, crusader, believe that you should impose sanctions on Libya, but there is no need

[to do so] against the Israelis. There is a need to impose sanctions on Libya and Iraq but there is no need... [pauses] However, I do not want to compare Libya with Iraq.

At least they found a justification in Iraq's case. They said it committed aggression against another state—possessing oil for the West—and annexed it. Libya took away no oil meant for the West or... [pauses] It only laid claim to its own oil and took control of it. It dismays them that Libya took control of its own oil. What aggression [words indistinct] that there was a revolution and the Libyans took control of their own oil. According to them, this was an aggression. Libyan oil must be for the West, not Libya, and Kuwait's oil must be for the West.

He [John Major] says there is no need to impose sanctions on the Israelis. If he had a sense of shame, he would be unable to face the world. How can he say sanctions must be imposed on Libya, but not on the Israelis? UN Security Council resolutions are implemented when it comes to Libya, but not Israel. Be careful. Even if the Israelis allow all the deportees to return, this would be a trick that should not deceive us. First, the Israelis have no right to deport those people and drive them from their country. It is their land and that of their ancestors. The deportation decision was an instance of injustice, aggression, and barbarism. It showed disrespect for the Arabs, international law, and the United Nations. When they made the decision they were relying on the colonialist countries that support them. Otherwise, they would have been unable to make a decision to drive 400 people from their homes. The expulsion was an error and if the Israelis allow them to return, it does not mean they are doing anyone a favor or complying with the Security Council's resolution. It would be a retraction of an error. The Security Council resolutions that the Zionists did not implement still stand. We will not accept the return of 400; we demand the return of 4 million Palestinians to Palestine. There is a major deception in the resolution propagated by Arab [word indistinct] and the agents of imperialism and Zionism in the Arab world. They turn the case of the 400 into a cause and if the Israelis allow them to return, then the Israelis will become blameless, having complied with the Security Council resolution. They do not have the right to drive them from their homes. Those 400 must return, without a Security Council resolution and not as a favor. We demand the implementation of resolutions on the occupation of Arab territory.

Pre-1967 Palestine was partitioned between the Arabs and the Israelis by a UN resolution. And Palestine was partitioned by the 1947 partition resolution.

An official U.S. spokesman said: We are placing Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on the list of terrorist organizations. First, the United States under the Democrats should not commit such a mistake, because this is the greatest service rendered to real terrorists if we equate them with those fighting for freedom and those struggling to liberate their lands and homeland. Hamas is a Palestinian organization resisting, not fighting—a resistance movement—resisting for the sake of the liberation of Palestine, not even all of Palestine, but only the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Where is the terrorism if a man fights to liberate his occupied land, a man who indulges in passive resistance with stones, not even bullets, to liberate his land? How can this man be termed a terrorist? Who is the terrorist? The best favor to real terrorists is treating them on an equal footing with the honorable strugglers who fight to liberate their homelands. [applause]

We advised Arabs to join the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals [SPCA], instead of the UN General Assembly; it might give them more protection. Nobody has sympathy or respect for Arabs now. It would be better for them to join the SPCA, if things have become that ridiculous.

The UN Security Council resolution against Libya is being sanctified; no Arab state can let a Libyan plane land or take off from its territory. Imagine a president or king traveling on foot. When you ask him, he says: The United Nations has prohibited entering Libya by car. [laughter and applause] By doing that, he wants to show them that he respects the United Nations and international law. If rulers are obedient and respect Western lies, we, the free people... [pauses] The free Arab citizen is perceptive; he is not a naive child; he rejects this ridiculous farce. We do not demand the return of just 400 Palestinians, but the return of 4 million Palestinians to Palestine. This will be achieved through the Arab masses' march and their vigilance. Forge ahead with the Palestinian struggle. [applause and cheers]

Foreign Liaison Secretary Meets Maltese Counterpart

LD0402175893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1535 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Paris, 4 Feb (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau met today in Brussels with Maltese Foreign Minister Guido de Marco. During the meeting, views were exchanged on matters pertaining to bilateral relations and the means to develop them, as well as on a survey of several international issues of common interest. The foreign minister of Malta is visiting the EEC in Brussels.

Tunisia

Group for Defense of Prisoners of Conscience Illegal

LD0302152593 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The establishment of a national committee for the defense of prisoners of conscience is illegal. This

has just been declared by the Tunisian State Secretariat for Information. According to the Secretariat, the committee, which was set up yesterday, is also composed of—I quote—people who are notoriously known for their extremist tendencies.

Western Sahara

Polisario Accuses Butrus-Ghali of Undermining Peace Plan

LD0302172293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The UN plan for the settlement of the Saharan problem, which has had the support in principle of both Rabat and the Polisario, faces the threat of being undermined due to the plotting of some forces embroiled in the conflict. Details from Zohra Zammit:

[Begin Zammit recording] The problem of Western Sahara is again included on the agenda of the intensive consultations under way in New York between the Security Council members, after UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali handed in his latest report on Friday. This report deals with the military aspects raised by the UN mission supervising the organization of the referendum in Western Sahara and the events that took place since the presentation of the last report dated 22 August 1992.

In a letter by Bachir Mustapha Sayed, Saharan coordinator with the UN Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara, he rejects the contents of the report of the UN secretary general that, according to the Saharan official's letter, are inspired by a state that is embroiled in the conflict. He believes that the suggested option B means that the popular referendum will be imposed on the Saharan population without consulting the side that represents them. The letter also says that the results of the referendum in such a situation will inevitably favor the occupying state. It will, therefore, be considered an operation that is at variance with the real option of the Saharan people for self-determination.

In his letter to the chairman of the Security Council, Mustapha Sayed reiterates the Front's attachment to the census of the Saharan population as per the census prepared by Spain in 1974. He concluded his letter by saying that the contents of the report of the UN secretary general is an operation aimed at undermining the UN peace plan. [end recording]

Representative on Proposal To Modify Electoral Agreement

LD0202133893 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report on interview with Baba Sayed, representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro in France, by correspondent Muriel Pamponne; place and date not given—portions within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Sayed] The Saharan people will never agree, under any circumstances, to seeing the electoral agreement modified according to the desires of the Moroccan authorities. You must remember here that the two sides agreed on 31 August 1989 to consider only the census carried out by the Spanish authorities as the basis, the exclusive basis, for the definition of [words indistinct]. So let no one say today that it is possible to take something else as a basis.

[Pamponne] The only basis for drawing up the voter lists is the basis accepted by the two sides, and [word indistinct] in the Spanish census? [Words indistinct] no other possibilities?

[Sayed] Any other choice would turn out to be completely invalid and [word indistinct]. [end recording]

[Announcer] Mr. Baba Sayed also reacted to the recent appointment of Javier Perez de Cuellar as deputy chairman of an international business company controlled by Morocco. According to him, this is a reward for services rendered. The former UN secretary general gave in to friendly pressure shortly before leaving his post a year ago in changing the planned referendum into a plebiscite on the Moroccanness of the Western Sahara, which explains why the peace plan has broken down since then, he says.

Let me add that a Committee on the Western Sahara was set up in Paris yesterday by several French personalities of different political persuasions. It is chaired by Georges Montaron, director of the weekly TEMOIGNAGE CHRETIEN, and (Martine de Frobertville). The committee has been founded to achieve respect for international law, especially the right to self-determination for the Western Sahara. Georges Montaron deplored the United Nations' lack of will to prevent the peace plan from getting bogged down and the disinformation which, he says, is connected to the imbalance in funds between the two sides in the conflict.

Kuwait

SAIRI Leader Urges Implementation of UN Resolutions

LD0502112293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0739 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, 5 Feb (KUNA)—Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, the chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has stressed the need for the demarcation of the international border between Kuwait and Iraq in implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

In an exclusive statement to KUNA last night, following his meeting with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Hakim declared: The implementation of the international resolutions concerning the Iraq-Kuwait border could ensure security and stability in the region. He said: We believe that it is absolutely necessary to stress the importance of implementing all UN resolutions, particularly those concerning the defense of the Iraq people, including the resolutions pertaining to the demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait border.

In reply to a question, Hakim said that the tragedy of the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees held in the Iraqi regime's prisons and detention camps must be ended by releasing them and allowing them to return to their families. He said: There are hundreds of thousands of prisoners, detainees, and missing persons in Iraq, as well as many whose fate is unknown, including Kuwaiti prisoners.

Hakim expressed his belief in the necessity to adopt the proposals put forward by the former Netherlands foreign minister, in his capacity as special envoy on the question of the prisoners of war and the missing, with regard to inspecting the secret prisons and detention camps in Iraq. The leader of the Iraqi opposition stressed that Saddam Husayn's regime "knows nothing except aggression and violating international laws and norms and it constitutes a perilous threat to security in the area." He noted that his meeting with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, which lasted 90 minutes, dealt with "the appropriate means to confront this great threat under which the area is living, as Kuwait was among the main countries to suffer heavily from the existence of this regime. Our views on the ideas we discussed were identical." The SAIRI chairman described his meeting with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as characterized by "the fraternity and amity which exist between us. The discussions focused on the conditions in which the Iraqi people are living under the dictatorial regime [words indistinct]." Concerning future relations between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi peoples after the downfall of Saddam Husayn's regime, he said that what is expected and sought are "relations not only of good neighborliness but also of cooperation, friendship, and amity, as is the normal thing. What happened was a condition imposed by the idol."

Al-Hakim said that the Iraqi opposition is in agreement on the basic and strategic issues [words indistinct] "whenever we succeeded in forging a practical path for this opposition."

Oman

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Ends Visit

JN0402142793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Muscat, 4 Feb (WAKH)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Muscat this morning following a two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During his visit, the Kuwaiti minister conveyed a message to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, on bilateral relations and current developments on the Gulf and Arab fronts.

He was seen off at the airport by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs; Ambassador Ahmad Bin-Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Oman.

Saudi Arabia

Sincerity of 'Arafat's Position on Iraq Questioned

PM0402161593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 93 p 17

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi article: "'Arafat's Return to Saddam"]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's return to Baghdad brings to mind, before anything else, one of the famous scenes in the Gulf war tragedy which ruined the homes of the Iraqis, Kuwaitis, and Palestinians. This is because two years is not long enough for these peoples to forget the way the Palestinian leader "stood" with respect to Saddam Husayn, blessing his occupation of Kuwait and chanting "welcome to war."

'Arafat has returned to Baghdad to restore "warmth"—as he put it—to Palestinian-Iraqi relations. To this end, on his arrival he hastened to praise the "real miracle" in what the Iraqi regime has achieved, like its utilization of all the country's capabilities to construct the "Third River," which could irrigate new lands in the south at the expense of other lands in the central Euphrates. And he did not forget to praise Saddam's decision to "cease fire" (against whom?), regarding it as a contribution to establishing new relations between the isolated regime on the one hand and the Arabs and the international community on the other. Can an isolated person help someone who is isolated like himself to change his condition?

The difference is that 'Arafat is partly responsible for the isolation from which the Iraqi regime is suffering.

because he sided with Iraq, thus causing the PLO too to face isolation at both the international and Arab levels. In addition, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians lost their interests in the Gulf as a result of their leadership's position, which evoked the hostility of the region's people toward them.

In recent weeks the PLO has made specific attempts to normalize its relations with the Gulf states. During a Gulf tour last month PLO leadership member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) expressed—for the first time since the war —regret for the PLO's position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Before that 'Arafat himself admitted in press statement he made to the Italian newspaper LA REPUBBLICA that the PLO's position had been wrong and that the Palestinians "were deceived" by Saddam's threats that he would burn half of Israel.

'Arafat's visit comes at a time when the Iraqi regime is continuing its refusal to implement the Security Council resolutions. This was confirmed by the officials in charge of the inspection teams who left Baghdad last week and announced that there was no hope of the Iraqis' providing them with the required information to eliminate the mass destruction weapons.

In view of these facts, it must be said that the Palestinian president's visit to Baghdad, the statements he made there, and his meeting with the Iraqi president actually cast a shadow over the PLO's credibility with regard to its bid to apologize to the Gulf states and express regret for its previous position on Saddam's aggression against Kuwait.

The minute 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad he began to use phrases which many people had thought they would never hear an Arab leader use to describe the Iraqi president. Immediately after their meeting the Palestinian president spoke to reporters, commending Saddam's "greatness."

The question is: Has 'Arafat really separated himself from Saddam in the past two years?

Yemen

President Praises Progress of Voter Registration Drive

JN0402201193 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpt] During their current visit to al-Hudaydah Governorate, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid met with the brother directors of offices at branches of government ministries and establishments, and heads of political parties, organizations, and popular organizations in al-Hudaydah city.

Addressing them, the brother president expressed the leadership's gratitude for the considerable number of citizens who have showed up at registration centers in various election constituencies in the governorate, which recorded a larger turnout than in other governorates. By 3 February, more than 94,000 voters had registered their names, while information on the results of registration drives at more than 60 registration centers has not yet been received.

The brother president added: This is cause for happiness and optimism. We urge the rest of brother citizens in the rest of the governorates to follow suit. This, he added, proves the voters' awareness of their voting rights and reflects a positive interaction with the first parliamentary elections at the level of the Yemeni homeland after its reunification.

He stressed the fact that citizens should be eager to practice this democratic right, which is guaranteed by the Constitution, so as to elect their representatives to the legislative branch. He also emphasized the importance of the forthcoming parliamentary elections to reinforce the democratic approach in our country, in view of the elections' national, regional, and international dimensions. [passage omitted]

GPC-YSP Committee Meets on Bolstering Confidence

JN0402184293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The committee for clearing the air and bolstering confidence between the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the General People's Congress [GPC] held its first meeting this morning under brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council and YSP Central Committee assistant secretary general. The committee discussed ways of clearing the air and bolstering confidence between the two partners.

The committee comprises brothers Dr. Hasan Makki, member of the [GPC] General Committee; Dr. Muhammad Haydarah Madsus, member of the [YSP] Political Bureau; 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, member of the General Committee; Haytham Qasim Tahir, member of the Political Bureau; Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau; and General Committee members Ghalib Mutahhar al-Qamh and Muhsin al-'Unufi.

During the meeting, the committee approved its agenda, which includes several topics. It will continue its business tomorrow morning.

Saddam Visits Wasit Governorate South of Baghdad

JN0402144993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1436 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today visited Wasit Governorate, 170 km south of Baghdad.

The president joined the masses of the governorate in their celebrations marking the Day of the Governorate when his excellency visited.

His excellency the president hailed the victory and steadfastness of the governorate, which he said also represents the steadfastness and victory of all Iraqis.

'Arafat Visit Said Attempt To End Isolation

PM0402171993 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Jane 'Arraf report: "Reports of Palestinian Mediation to Return Iraq to Arab Ranks"]

[Excerpts] Baghdad—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn yesterday, Tuesday. Diplomats said that that Iraq is looking for a way out to end its isolation in the Arab world. [passage omitted]

Diplomats said that this visit could be a mediation attempt to help return Iraq to Arab ranks.

An Arab diplomat said: "I do not rule out the possibility that ('Arafat) came with a certain message."

The diplomat added that 'Arafat is probably trying to open the door to mediation efforts.

'Arafat met recently with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and he has good relations with King Hassan II of Morocco. [passage omitted]

Allied Forces Said Behind Burglary at Monastery

JN0402164293 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 4, INA—Madonna Monastery at al-Qosh sub-district in Ninawa Province has recently been exposed to a crime carried out by a number of saboteurs who have stolen its priceless and rare antiques.

INA bureau in Dahuk Province received information that four saboteurs had committed that crime on purpose and under directives of the allied forces present in north Iraq.

The information made it clear that the purpose of the crime was to sell the rare and valuable antiques to the allied forces.

Paper Voices Readiness To Work for Peace

JN0502124093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has emphasized Iraq's firm policy, good intentions, and ceaseless readiness for a regional, pan-Arab, and world action to help the cause of peace and understanding.

In an article today, the paper says: These principles of the Iraqi positions have been drawn on a continuous, ascending graph in the midst of the darkest regional and international crises.

The paper explains that one of the most significant facts on both the regional and pan-Arab levels at which the political observer has to pause is the state of despair and regression suffered by those who chose to participate in the aggression against Iraq and the disappointment now governing their conduct despite all the temporary financial injections they receive.

The paper asks: What can the political observer understand from all the regional and international developments concerning the situation in Iraq.

The paper says: There is no doubt that events are now leaning toward relative calm. And, with this calm, there are numerous signs which can be used in the building of subsequent political positions. To be more precise in defining these signs, we must note a host of events, some projected by western quarters, some asserted by UN circles, and some emerging on both the regional and Arab levels.

The paper asserts that many of these circles have acknowledged that Iraq is committed to the cease-fire and that its commitment is based on its concern to give peace every chance and to pave the way for dialogue, understanding, and a review based on international cooperation. Some of these quarters have even gone farther and began to raise questions such as: Now that all we have done against Iraq had failed to infringe on its political line, should we not open a new, different chapter with it to serve the common interests? Is it not possible that some states would head toward direct links with Iraq in repayment of political, economic, and even moral debts?

The paper adds: The encouraging relationship noted by the UN secretary general, and remarks by international law experts that it is only legitimate to review the UN's approach toward Iraq and that Resolution 687 stipulates rights for Iraq which it must be given, may serve as an indication of a UN position, which may develop any time, if it is not already standing on the start line, waiting to start moving.

The paper says: Logical analysis of these changes will put us face to face with a clear political fact. What had happened and what is expected to happen was and is due to Iraq's steadfastness, firm policy, good intentions, and

constant readiness for a regional, pan-Arab, and world action to serve the cause of peace and understanding. These principles of the Iraqi position have been drawn on a continuous, ascending graph in the midst of the darkest regional and international crises. It is enough to recall what Iraq had proposed in the 1979 Havana Nonaligned Summit Conference, what it asserted in the next Nonaligned Movement summits in Delhi and Harare and the Arab summits, President Saddam Husayn's pan-Arab declaration of 8 February 1980 and his excellency's initiative of 12 August 1990, the recent peace initiative, the Iraqi moves in the United Nations, and Iraq's ceaseless endeavor to establish a fair political and economic world order that does justice to all; stops exploitation, tutelage, and monopolistic hegemony; and rejects all forms of custodianship.

Justice Minister Leaves for Cairo Meeting

JN0502124293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki today left for Cairo to attend the first meeting of the Arab Justice Ministers' Executive Bureau, scheduled to start on Sunday. The meeting is expected to last for three days. [passage omitted]

Government Issues List of 101 Returnees

TA0502104193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The list of 101 deportees who will be returned from Lebanon was published a short while ago. 'Oded Ben-'Ami, the prime minister's media adviser, said that the decision on what steps will be taken against them, if such action is found necessary, will only be made upon their return. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

Following the government's decision on 1 February, the return of 101 deportees to Israel was permitted on an individual basis, according to the decision of the commanders of the Army's Central and Southern Commands, who were responsible for issuing the deportation orders in the first place. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders who decided which deportees would be returned were helped by the recommendations of the committees appointed following the High Court of Justice ruling that each case should be reexamined. The government promised the High Court that, as part of their work, the committees would again carefully peruse the information relating to each of the deportees and compile a list of those who could be brought back. These deportees make up the 101 deportees who will be returned to Israel. Upon their return, the authorities will reach a decision regarding their interrogation, arrest, or whatever steps necessary.

A list of the names of the deportees who will be allowed to return has been sent to the Civil Administration in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip so that the deportees' families can be notified. A list has also been handed over to the International Red Cross. The U.S. Administration has been updated. The reexamination committees have still not completed their task and continue to fulfill the government's commitment to the High Court of Justice.

Out of the group of 101 deportees, 13 are sick and five are hospitalized in Marj 'Uyun. The reexamination teams include representatives of the IDF commands, the Shin Bet, and the military advocate general. [passage omitted]

Christopher Talks With Rabin, Peres on Deportees

TA0402163893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] This afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. They discussed the implementation of the deportee arrangement, and the moves toward the renewal of the peace process. The conversation lasted several minutes.

The U.S. secretary of state also spoke today with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that this was the first conversation the two foreign ministers held since Christopher assumed his post. Christopher said that although the deportees affair has not yet ended, he hopes it would be settled. He also said that, in any event, we must already begin thinking about the next stage of negotiations, which will apparently be held in April.

Rabin Addresses Knesset on Deportation Agreement

TA0502085893 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1128 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Knesset plenum in response to several motions to the agenda concerning the deportation of the Islamic Resistance Movement activists and the subsequent Israeli-U.S. compromise deal to allow their gradual return—live]

[Text] Honorable Knesset Speaker, Knesset Members [MK's]: I have heard the recent and occasionally caustic statements which have no foundation in reality. I was surprised by the identity of views between MK's Matza [Likud] and Gozansky [Progressive List for Peace and Equality], who both categorically opposed the deportations and the latest decision. I am really full of admiration for this shared viewpoint.

I believe that the government made two correct decisions, with which I am at peace, because they are compatible with the policy of this government. This government's political-security policy rests on three elements: The first element is the desire to promote the peace negotiations and, while adhering to the Madrid formula, to imbue them with more meaning than the Likud ever intended. We have already acknowledged and continue to assert that peace with the neighboring Arab countries and with the Palestinians in the territories will demand compromises; however, these compromises—not the all-out concessions made by the Likud, but rather compromise—must come from both sides. The second element is the safeguarding of national security and, to the extent possible, the personal security of both Israeli citizens and the Palestinians living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The third element is the attainment of as much understanding as possible with the United States, in order to promote the making of peace.

Tell me: Who organized the Madrid conference? The United States. It goes without saying that the previous government also had to reach compromises with Washington in order to make that possible. They either forgot what an international conference looks like or forgot their opposition to it. So now it is called a Middle East peace conference....[interrupted by catcalls]

The war against terrorism will continue concurrently with the peace negotiations. This government has declared that it will combat terrorism but, at the same time, will continue the negotiations. We shall pursue the peace negotiations while fighting terrorism. We have never seen any contradiction in taking simultaneous action on both these levels. Over the past 18 months, there has been an increase in terrorist activity, especially by the radical Islamic organizations such as Hamas

[Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. All the Palestinian terror organizations are involved in terrorist activity, and the war against terrorism is against the phenomenon as such, regardless of which organization stands behind it. Over the past nine months, the radical Islamic elements—mainly Hamas but also the Islamic Jihad—have stepped up their murderous terrorist activities which, beyond the terror act in itself, which is a common denominator of many Palestinian terrorist organizations, were also designed not only to murder Israelis—both Jewish and non-Jewish—and not only to murder Palestinians but to kill the chances of peace and to sabotage the peace negotiations. That is why, at a certain stage and as part of its battle against terrorism—especially against that brand of terrorism which has a double aim: both to simply perpetrate terrorist attacks and also to destroy the peace negotiations—the government decided to take a significant and unprecedented step in the war against terrorism, a step that would be implemented immediately and constitute a severe blow to the radical Islamic terrorist organizations.

This was done through the arrest and the temporary removal—and the legal terminology does not matter here—of over 1,000 activists, and I would like to stress that the government decreed that this would be a temporary removal when it gave the military commanders of the Central and Southern Commands the final say regarding the duration of the removal period—anything between nine months and two years—and refrained from intervening in their conclusions regarding the duration of the removal orders which were individually prepared for each of the deportees. This combination of steps—the arrests and especially what is described as deportation but is actually only a temporary removal—dealt a severe blow to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. Despite this severe blow, these organizations have not been eliminated. We have all learned that the war against terrorism will be long and protracted. The solution to this problem can only be found on the political level. But an effective war against the terrorist groups is a prerequisite for success on the political level and especially against those terrorist organizations who employ murder merely as a tool by which to achieve their primary political objective: putting a halt to the peace negotiations. The blow we dealt them was so severe that emissaries came from the United States and elsewhere to help them recover.

I believe that this decision was correct. In the past 20 years, no Israeli Government has dared to make such an extraordinary decision. [catcalls] True, due to circumstances beyond our control and which I will not discuss in detail—and I will not claim that these circumstances were not to be expected—the temporary removal was delayed, thus enabling the Lebanese Government to take preemptive action. I believe, however, that in any case, had they not been stopped at the site where they are concentrated now, they still would have set up a camp together somewhere else in Lebanon, and this aspect of the matter does not surprise me. It was to be expected and was also taken into account.

Second, the government's decision had to be put to the test of the Israeli legal system. We knew that this type of government activity would be put to the test of the High Court of Justice. We hoped and wanted, and I read in one of the papers that we knew; we did not know anything. When the Israeli High Court of Justice reaches a decision, it is kept secret and certainly is not revealed to anyone before the court's verdict or ruling is read, and any whispered allegations that anything was known in advance are baseless lies. I am astounded that anyone can even think for one instant that any of the High Court justices would dare to even contemplate divulging matters pertaining to the court's work.

The third test came on the international level, and I do not think that anyone in the cabinet entertained any illusions regarding the position of the international community and the United Nations. When, as defense minister in the national unity government, I proposed and implemented the deportation of agitators, we were roundly condemned for each deportation. The U.S. ambassador showed up at the Defense Ministry; there were protests. Did we not know this? We did. We knew that we would have to deal with this aspect. There are different ways to cope with things....[interrupted by catcalls]

I have heard all the speeches and catcalls about the government's surrender, capitulation—call it whatever you like. For some reason, the Arab world takes a different view of this. [catcalls] For some reason, many in the international community see things differently. [catcalls] I understand that you are upset; I understand. Perhaps you, however, will manage to convince them. That would make me very happy, because then they will accept our proposal. Whatever happens, even if the deportation period of the 300 remaining deportees is shortened, the principle of deporting instigators, leaders, and organizers for a definite period of time has been upheld, which is something you never managed to do. [catcalls]

Therefore, since the third element in my political philosophy is to establish an understanding and dialogue with the United States, particularly with the advent of a new administration, and to try to also comprehend the difficulties it faces, I decided to reach a compromise, and the cabinet later endorsed my decision. I personally bear full responsibility for both the original decision and the subsequent compromise. [catcalls] Therefore, we agreed on a compromise that maintained the principle of deportation with regard to most of the deportees. The deportations were for a limited period from the very beginning and were carried out so that the precedent and the subsequent sense of shock would continue to deter Hamas, as well as others. [catcalls]

I agreed to the return of approximately 100 of the deportees. The second thing I agreed to was to cut the

deportation periods by half. The third thing is the commitment we made, both in light of the High Court of Justice's verdict and as stipulated in the communique issued by the government following that ruling, that if appeals are submitted to the advisory committees in accordance with Israeli law, these committees will do their job. We promised—and this promise is included in the High Court ruling—to set up a review committee whose recommendations, depending on their nature, might also lead to the release of a few additional individuals; I do not know. This was our commitment to the High Court of Justice. We also promised to do everything in our power to let the International Red Cross reach the deportees by helicopter—not by an overland route; no Beirut-style convoys or people on foot—to extend medical aid and supply some other things if necessary.

This is based on an understanding with the United States that this is an arrangement whose conditions will remain valid until the end of the process which will last one year. It is binding on both sides. There will be no salami tactics. This is a closed deal. [catcalls] The United States has undertaken to prevent operative resolutions against Israel in international forums, to make an effort to resume the peace negotiations, and to try to find host countries for the remaining 300-odd deportees if they accept the compromise. The United States told us it considers this deal a fulfillment of UN Resolution 799 with a different timetable. We told them that we would make our position known. After all, we declared in advance that the deportations were for a maximum of two years; we never said that this time, it is deportation for good. The principle that these deportations are not permanent was already established in the government's original decision.

I am sure that both decisions were correct. The decision to temporarily remove the deportees, together with other moves, dealt a severe blow to the extremist Islamic terrorist organizations, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, whose only aim is to harm the peace negotiations. The other decision created the basis for an understanding with America over an issue it has always opposed in principle, but has accepted in reality. The compromise was aimed at ending the affair. You heard the secretary of state-....[catcalls] I said the United States never accepted the principle of expulsion. I said it here just now; you did not hear me. The United States says: We view the arrangement—the spreading of the terms, the numbers—as fulfillment of Resolution 799. We told the United States: You may say that, but we insist on our position. We insist that it is a comprehensive agreement made up of one which I suggested and another part put forth by the Americans. It is a compromise. In my view, both decisions, the one ordering a temporary removal of the 400, in order to hand down a blow, in order to achieve the outcome we wanted against an extremist terrorist element which fights the peace, and the other decision-....[changes thought in response to catcalls] Call it what you want, convince the Arab world, it might help me, too. The two decisions are a blow to terrorism and the opening for a chance to renew the peace negotiations on the basis of an understanding with the United States. Therefore, the overall picture in the wake of these two decisions is that terror has been dealt a blow and that chances have been created for the resumption of the peace negotiations based on an understanding with the United States. Both decisions are correct and complement rather than contradict each other, because they combine all three elements: promoting the peace negotiations, effectively fighting terror, and creating an understanding with the United States in hopes of resuming the peace process. Those are the points, I stand fully behind what has been done, I believe they were the right thing to do, and the future will prove we were right. I do not want to get into an argument over whether to dismiss motions on this issue or not. I suggest we transfer all the motions to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Officials Comment on Deportation Situation

Chief of Staff Reviews Impact

TA0502075593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe at a convention for Engineering Corps wounded in Tel Aviv on 4 February—recorded]

[Text] [Baraq] The deportations dealt a very severe blow to the supporting, logistic, financial, and organizational infrastructure of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and also seriously undermined its propaganda machine. The confusion and organizational vacuum created by the mass arrests and deportations precipitated hasty actions by the Hamas leadership which led to the arrest of additional activists and to the almost complete exposure of its operational infrastructure.

[Menashe] Was the recent arrest of three American nationals also a result of the mass detentions and deportations?

[Baraq] Of course. The effects of the deportation of approximately 400 activists, which created a vacuum at the operational level on the ground, was the reason for the arrival of these three U.S. citizens, as well as for other activities.

[Menashe] How prepared is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] for the possible return of 100 deportees?

[Baraq] We will publish the names of those who may return if they so choose. From the moment the names are published, which will probably be sometime tomorrow, they will be able to come back. We are adequately prepared to bring them back if necessary. It should be noted that they will be restored to the status they held prior to the deportations.

In my opinion, at this stage the organization has sustained a very serious blow, and I would be very happy if we could maintain the present situation. In my opinion, we hold the initiative at the moment in our struggle against Hamas. Nevertheless, we must not delude ourselves. Hamas has not evaporated, and we will have additional encounters with that organization in the future, including Hamas attempts to carry out terrorist attacks.

[Menashe] The terrorist organizations are continuing their activity, however, and a soldier was killed in the Gaza Strip over the weekend.

[Baraq] The war against terror has not ended with the removal of the Hamas people. This war will continue to accompany us throughout the political process, and it is very important that the Israeli authorities resolutely employ all the legal means at their disposal to wage a relentless war against terrorism, even while political negotiations are held in parallel.

[Menashe] Is there any news regarding the searches for the body of Ilan Sa'adon [soldier murdered by Hamas in 1989]?

[Baraq] The searches were resumed on the basis of bits of information that came to our knowledge. Throughout the years, every time we received any scrap of information indicating where we should look for the body, the searches were resumed. This is what we are doing now as well. I cannot guarantee that we will find Sa'adon's body this time, but we will continue looking until we do.

Beilin, Nusaybah Debate Issue

TA0402210993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Debate between Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, speaking in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; and Sari Nusaybah, head of the Palestinian political committees in the territories, speaking in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles; moderated by Shlomo Ganor on the weekly "Meeting" program—recorded]

[Text] [Ganor, in Hebrew] Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister, what is the current state of affairs, following the U.S.-Israeli agreement regarding the return of the deportees, when the deportees and the Arab countries refuse to recognize the agreement?

[Beilin] There are two levels here: one is what takes place in the field, and the other is the agreement itself. The agreement, in fact, allows all of the deportees to return to their places of residence by the end of this year; some of them immediately, and some 300 this year. We are also willing to provide them with supplies, food, medicines, and whatever they may need—by helicopters. They decided not to return, and they may make their own decisions, just like Lebanon had decided not to allow them to enter its territory. In the field, therefore, there is no change currently. The change is in the fact that they now have the ability to return, some now and others later.

[Ganor, in Arabic] Dr. Nusaybah, are the Palestinians and the PLO insisting that the deportees must be returned before any movement or participation in the bilateral or multilateral talks?

[Nusaybah] We have two problems here. The first is that since the territories in which we reside are occupied, the Fourth Geneva Convention, which bans either individual or collective deportations, is applicable to those territories. We want Israel to acknowledge this and, consequently, abolish the deportation orders completely. This is one aspect of the problem. The other aspect is that we have a clear resolution by the Security Council—799—which calls on Israel to cancel this order. We believe that no distinction can be made between an immediate or phased implementation. We believe that the resolution should be adhered to. As we know, when resolutions were issued against Iraq, for example, and Iraq tried to say that it was ready to implement the Security Council resolutions in installments, the Security Council opposed this.

[Ganor] What is the effect of this decision on the future of the peace talks?

[Nusaybah] Unfortunately, as the situation stands now, the PLO's official stance as well as that of the Palestinian masses is that we cannot continue the talks if Israel does not acknowledge that deportations are illegal and if there is no inclination by Israel to back down from this decision. Ordinary people are asking about the talks: If it is not possible to induce Israel to adhere to Resolution 799, how can we reach a situation whereby Israel will adhere to implement Resolution 242, which is the basis of the talks?

[Ganor] I will address this question to Dr. Beilin.

[Beilin] I believe that those simple people are also asking themselves: How can a comparison be made at all between the temporary removal of some 400 men—directly or indirectly involved in the murder of the peace process and people—with the affair of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This whole equation is artificial. I believe that the simple men Dr. Nusaybah refers to are asking the same question, which is: Are the moderate Palestinians who want to attain peace—under their terms, which are naturally different from ours—ready to surrender to the dictates of the most extreme Palestinians—the likes of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] who are not willing to accept any form of solution—and thus not to participate in the coming talks; or, are they saying: there are those who do not want peace; we do, and we are willing to attend the talks? This is the real question. Starting a debate about this or other resolutions at this time is worthless. After all, whatever criticism may leveled at the State of Israel, even by persons such as Dr. Sari Nusaybah, he and others know that this is the only

democracy in the Middle East. We were very unenthusiastic about this deportation. He knows that this government is made of the most moderate people in the Israeli society. He knows them personally. He also understands that if an act such as the deportation was taken—and I personally am not happy about it—it was taken against a wave of terror that wished to hurt him as well as me.

[Ganor, in Arabic] Dr. Nusaybah, will the talks be hostage to extremism?

[Nusaybah] I would like to comment on what Dr. Beilin said. First of all about representation. Regardless of the public which you represent, if you represent the public as a whole you must show concern for all members of the public, not only for one part. The current Israeli Government represents all Israelis, not only some of them. There are many Israelis who oppose peace and territorial compromise, but the Israeli Government represents them. The same applies to us. The PLO represents all the Palestinian public, irrespective of the positions of various sectors and individuals within this public. The reference to Iraq may arouse a certain sensitivity, but the main point is that of principle. Is Israel ready to adhere to Security Council resolutions?

[Ganor, in Hebrew] Dr. Beilin, is Israel committed to the UN Security Council resolutions?

[Beilin] First, there is a difference between a Council resolution based on Chapter Six or Seven, calling for sanctions, and a resolution calling on Israel to return the deportees in principle. Second, our decision—and the U.S. secretary of state said as much, and many others in the democratic world are also saying that today—is, in fact, an implementation of that resolution. It is no accident that we have decided to return a quarter of the deportees, and cut the deportation period of the others.

Incidentally, I have recently met with one of the most important leaders of our world, and Dr. Nusaybah knows him personally. He told me: Yosi, look, the people you have deported are really those who want to harm the peace process, and I have no mercy for them. I know that a lot of their distress is artificial, and it is because Lebanon refused to accept them, but, please, do not send them where CNN is present. So, I believe this is the main problem, if not the only one. We are ready to go for peace. We are ready to give up on significant parts of the territories in question. Instead of dealing with 799 or 800, let us deal with the real thing—peace between us. If there is peace between us—based on 242 and 338—there will be no situation in which we will have to deal with an issue such as deportations. This will be a matter of the past.

[Ganor] Dr. Beilin, will Israel participate in talks with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon when there is a possibility that the Palestinians will not show up for the talks?

[Beilin] We very much hope that everyone will show up. At the same time, we are waiting for no one who stays behind. We will talk to whoever wants peace.

[Ganor, in Arabic] Can we say that the train will leave the station without waiting for the Palestinians?

[Nusaybah] The train can always move, but it will be empty and without a meaningful destination. If it moves, the Palestinians must be on it because the main problem in this region is that of the Palestinians. I do not believe that there is a major issue that should be addressed or resolved other than the Palestinian problem. As for Israel's problems with the other Arab states, I believe those are marginal problems. I would like to go back to what Dr. Beilin said about Resolution 242 and the return of territories. Naturally, this is the basis. Does Israel acknowledge that the lands in which the Palestinians reside, taken in 1967, are occupied lands? Does Israel acknowledge that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to those lands? Does Israel acknowledge that it is impermissible to deport Palestinians, whether individually or collectively?

[Ganor, in Hebrew] Dr. Beilin, please briefly reply to Dr. Nusaybah's questions, if you can.

[Beilin] I have no argument with Dr. Nusaybah about the importance of the Palestinian issue in the peace process. I agree that this is the heart of the problem. The two of us agreed on this a long time ago. I would really like to solve the heart of the problem. Nevertheless, I will not agree to having the Palestinians dictating to the entire Arab world not to come to the peace talks, and that we, as a result, not talk to any other element. I sincerely hope that the Palestinians will be in, but they must realize that if they stay on the outside, they are the first to lose because of that. We will too, because we all stand to lose from the absence of peace.

As for the legal and principle matter: We can sit here, on this or a million other shows, and forever ask whether the territories are conquered, liberated, occupied, or administered. Sitting here next to you is a man who belongs to a government committed to a peace process. This is the most moderate government ever established in Israel. Its ideology—not its legal, judicial, or procedural concepts—is that we have to attain peace; that there is a price for peace; and that the price is territorial. I am sure you know all that. Instead of debating what to call the territories, or whether the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to them or not, or whether we may deport one man or 400—I say, let us sit down together in Washington, and wrap things up instead of stalling.

[Nusaybah] I believe we disagree about history. We do not want to delve into history—what was Israel's and our own position in the past—because this is outdated. On the other hand, I agree with Dr. Beilin that it is in the interest of both sides to continue the peace process. I personally believe that the interest for Palestine and the Palestinians is basic. This requires that we continue the peace process, but we wish to be sure of certain issues

that are not rhetorical or slogans. They are basic. When Israel deports people from the occupied territories or adopts measures we believe and feel are repressive, the question arises: Is Israel really interested in this peace process? How can we reconcile Dr. Beilin's advocating peace and negotiations with the measures practiced by the Israeli Government in the occupied territories, in Gaza and other places? I do not wish to enter into details because you are aware of them.

[Beilin] I would like to say something about this. I did not want to mention this before, but the man I referred to before, and I will not name him, said: As far as I am concerned, you could issue a death penalty. It would have been easier on the Arab world than placing them in south Lebanon for several months. I told him: You may be right. It may be the right thing to do in terms of public relations. Incidentally, according to of the Fourth Geneva Convention, a death penalty is legal. Men like myself will fight against this. And you know perfectly well that whenever there is a wave of terror, there will always be a fool calling for a death penalty to terrorists. If it happened, would we be sitting in this studio together? Would you say: Well done, Yosi! Because you only killed people and not deported them, and since this precisely follows the Geneva Convention, you deserve to be praised? Do you want me to provide an insurance policy proving I am serious? After 25 years, you should know the people sitting in this government, the commitments they made, their willingness to destroy their political careers for the sake of serious discussions to promote the peace process. Do you think that you are dealing with people who do not want peace? Do you think you could get any kind of tangible assurance from us before the political process starts. If those 25 years were not enough for you to view the people now in power as serious, do you believe some marginal decision would provide you with the guarantee that we are serious?

[Nusaybah] The justification that can convince me is not rhetorical. It must be a fact. This differentiation between words and deeds is what creates a negative climate and relays to us, in the Palestinian street, a negative message.

[Ganor, in Arabic] Regarding the negative climate, how does the PLO's stance reconcile with that of Hamas, regarded as a rival and whose aims totally contradict those of the PLO and the peace process?

[Nusaybah] Just as the Israeli Government, or any democratic government in any country, regards itself as representing all the parties in that country, so too the PLO regards itself representing all parties within the Palestinian people regardless of their positions. We want to establish a democratic state and reinforce the democratic system in this state.

[Ganor] But this contradicts the Hamas charter?

[Nusaybah] In Israel it also contradicts the charters of the ultra-Orthodox religious parties. The same situation exists in other countries. In my opinion, the important thing is that we should be able to create an infrastructure inside Palestinian society for a democratic state in which every person can state his opinion with utmost freedom, in which every group can organize itself with utmost freedom, and can compete with other groups and blocs freely and openly.

[Ganor] Even at the cost of hindering or suspending the peace process?

[Nusaybah] The peace process is not suspended because of the position of this or that party in Palestinian society. It depends on Israel's stance. What hinders or moves the peace process is Israel's stance on the occupied territories. Is Israel ready to continue this process in order to reach agreement on ending the occupation? I believe there will be no problem if Israel wishes this and consents to it.

[Ganor, in Hebrew] Dr. Beilin, does Israel intend to help the Palestinian elements interested in the peace arrangements?

[Beilin] The big question is what is help. I do not believe we can interfere with Palestinian matters. Obviously, the more pragmatic Palestinians feel the need to surrender to the extremists who, in fact, act against them as well. There are many positions in Israel, but there is a single government that decided to go for peace and pay the price. This is the difference. If anyone wants to see facts before we hold negotiations.... [changes thought] Do you want us to demand today that the Palestinians stop the intifadah as a precondition for negotiations? You know that there are many Israelis who say that, and it not absolutely silly to tell the Palestinians: If you want to talk to us, stop the intifadah; stop running to Saddam Husayn.

[Ganor, in Arabic] What is the response of the Palestinians to Israel's demand or condition to continue the negotiations in return for halting the intifadah?

[Nusaybah] I would like to refer to what Dr. Beilin said. I do not wish to intervene in Israeli society nor do I want him to intervene in Palestinian society. He talked about differences in Palestinian society. I can also talk about differences in Israeli society. For example, why did Rabin order the deportations if not to respond to the radical Israeli street and calm tempers at the time? I believe that every society should rely on itself and be able to manage its own affairs. As for the issues which Dr. Beilin raised, my reply is this: As Palestinians we are interested in the peace process profoundly. We seek peace. Peace may be more beneficial to us than to any other party. As far as Israel, Syria, Jordan, or Egypt are concerned, negotiations for them relate to borders or ties. For us negotiations are a matter of survival. We seek negotiations and want to continue the peace process. This is something of which Israel must be sure and aware, but we have certain questions that must be answered. Those are simple questions: Is this process based on ending the occupation? We go to Washington but find no answer to this.

[Ganor] In brief, Dr. Beilin.

[Beilin] This is what I keep saying. If you want to see big changes taking place before we end the negotiations, it must be reciprocal. Reciprocal demands will be made. Allow me to tell you one more thing, and I will be very honest: I do not believe that anyone could be ruling another nation and be enlightened. I do not want to rule you. I do not want to rule over the Palestinians, nor do I want my children to rule over the next Palestinian generation. Instead of saying—if this is the new government, let us reach an arrangement with it—you want me to be an enlightened ruler today. Suddenly you want me to fix up the territories, to make Gaza look like Champs Elysees. This will not happen.

[Ganor, in Arabic] About two-and-half years ago both of you drafted a joint document in which you defined the broad outlines for solving the Palestinian problem. Among those outlines are the need to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, holding talks between the Israeli Government and the internationally recognized legitimate Palestinian representative, and non-interference in the other party's decision on choosing its representatives. Dr. Nusaybah, do you adhere to the principles in this document?

[Nusaybah] Personally, I adhere to the principles which you have read. Basically we are participating in the peace process in order to be able to determine our own future. I believe that the direct way to that is negotiations between the Israeli Government and the PLO.

[Ganor, in Hebrew] Would you adopt this document which, in fact, means a recognition of the PLO and the establishment of a Palestinian state?

[Beilin] We drafted this document a long time ago. Many things have happened since. Soon after we made this agreement on paper—an agreement between private people, not governments—the Gulf war broke out. The Palestinian support for Iraq definitely destabilized the relations that existed before. Also, perhaps as a result of the Gulf war, the more pragmatic Palestinians agreed to a completely different thing—the Madrid formula. Although I personally still adhere to our agreement, the situation today is different. The Madrid formula exists now, and I insist that the entire issue not be reopened and I reject the idea of beginning negotiations on procedure, which that could last a year or more. I believe that the continuation of substantive negotiations is in the real interest of both Israel and the Palestinians. If elections could be held in the territories, they should determine the leaders of the self-government, and take on from there. Two years later, we will discuss the permanent solution and find a solution in our time.

[Nusaybah] I would like to briefly comment on Dr. Beilin's remarks. I am surprised at this adherence to formalities. In the past we talked about the core of the issue and substance.

[Ganor, in Arabic] There is a proposal for elections. What is the stance of the Palestinians on this proposal?

[Nusaybah] I believe that there is a more important issue than this. Dr. Beilin mentioned the Madrid formula. Are we interested in formalities, or are we interested in the core of the issue? The issue is that the Israeli and Palestinian sides should be able to resolve problems. If this can be achieved through such a document, so much the better. Why should one adhere to formulas that do not address the core of the issue?

[Ganor] With regard to Dr. Beilin's proposal on holding elections in the territories, what is the Palestinians stand?

[Nusaybah] The Palestinian people has been demanding elections in the occupied territories since 1967, municipal or otherwise. We do not oppose elections at all. Just the contrary; we believe that elections are part of the work we have to undertake in building democratic institutions in the Palestinian state, and we should exercise these measures, including elections. However, elections now are not on the agenda.

[Beilin] Dr. Nusaybah, the real question is this: Can you, as a member of a group of Palestinians—which I hope is large and pragmatic, which may have different goals from mine, but is willing to talk to me, which wants to attain peace and believes in peace—can this group really talk to us? If it can, and if its goal is to attain elections for the council to run the self-government, fine. If you believe that elections now would be too soon, and you prefer an appointed council, fine. If, instead of having elections, you want to discuss the nature of the solution, also fine. I, however, believe that this group—and I cannot blame it—seems to be unable to raise this banner. It stumbles over and grabs on to anything it can to avoid holding negotiations today with the element willing to negotiate with you. And let me tell you, instead of changing formulas, we now have the Madrid formula; let us use it. I suggest to you: Let us talk seriously about the solution, because I fear that several years will go by, and we will miss the opportunity to talk because things might happen in the world which might prevent both you and me from sitting at the negotiating table. Today we can do that. When I hear you speaking here today, I fear that you have some inhibitions against holding real negotiations with us.

[Nusaybah] But when I hear your emphasis on elections, I fear that you are moving away from the core issue. The core issue is not that document or the Madrid formula. The core issue is not connected to a certain group. It is connected to the Palestinian people on one hand, and the Israeli people on the other. Is there now a possibility for the establishment of peace between the two peoples on the basis of mutual recognition of the right to self-determination and on the basis of the Palestinian people's capability to attain their freedom and live with

dignity on their land alongside Israel? Is this possible or not? If we agree that this is possible, every other issue too will become possible.

[Ganor, in Arabic] Thank you, Dr. Nusaybah and Dr. Beilin.

Poll Shows 78.5 Percent Approve of Deportation

TA2901165793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT [HASHAVU'A supplement] in Hebrew 29 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] An exclusive poll conducted for HADASHOT by the Teleseqer Research Institute on 27 January examined public stands on the deportee issue.

Here are the questions and the breakdown of answers:

1. In view of what has happened since the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists were deported, do you think the deportation should or should not have been done?

	Percent of Total Sample
Should have been done	78.5
Should not have been done	13.0
Don't know	8.5

2. I will read to you a list of possible courses of action currently open to the government with regard to the deportee issue and ask you to state which of the following options the Government of Israel should choose:

	Percent of Total Sample
They should not be brought back, but should be allowed to meet with their attorneys, to receive mail from relatives, and given medical assistance if necessary	32.9
They should be moved to camps controlled by the South Lebanese Army in south Lebanon	22.5
Israel should ignore everything happening to it and everything that is being said in the world	22.0
Israel should announce that the deportees will be returned to Israel and put on trial	11.4
Other	5.3
Don't know	5.9

Pollsters remarks:

The poll was conducted among approximately 400 men and women over 18 representing the nationwide Jewish population in Israel.

The poll was conducted prior to the High Court of Justice ruling on the deportee issue.

The poll was conducted through telephone interviews from Teleseqer's interview center in Tel Aviv, and the sampling and interviewing processes were fully supervised.

The maximum statistical error in this poll is plus or minus 4.9 percent.

Peres Hopes Christopher Visit Helps Renew Talks

TA0502060193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he hopes that the visit of Secretary Christopher will contribute to the renewal of the peace process. In an interview with reporter Le'a Zinder, Peres also said that while the deportee issue is not over yet, he still believed that Israel had no choice but to deport the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists.

[Begin recording] [Peres] It's not over yet, and when you are talking about damage control, and in all fairness, you have to compare two damages: What would happen if Israel would do nothing against the Hamas? It would also create damage. So, I mean, it was really in a way a choice between two different damages. And I think that we would never have a chance to renew the peace talks if we wouldn't take the necessary steps to control the damage done by Hamas.

[Zinder] But what is the government going to do now in order to get the peace process back on track?

[Peres] Well, right now, you know, we have the two supporters: the Russians and the Americans. They are trying to fix a date. We are talking with them about a possible date.

[Zinder] This is on the multilateral talks?

[Peres] Yes, but I think it depends....[changes thought] The reasons are the same, because we have two holidays in the middle: You have the Passover, and you have the Ramadan. I think what we have to do is to use this time for unofficial, informal talks.

[Zinder] Are you depending on Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East to resolve all the issues that have not yet been resolved?

[Peres] I do believe that his visit may contribute greatly to the renewal of the process. I talked with him and I told him that we welcome his visit to the region. [end recording]

Beilin Comments on Peace Talks, PLO Meeting

TA0402170993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Yaron Wilensky and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpt] [Wilensky] Good evening. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Wilensky] The Palestinians today said that there was nothing to talk about before April. Is this their last word or are some negotiations going and this is merely a haggling position?

[Beilin] I am not at all sure that this is their final position, and I very much hope that this is not the case. The fact is that both the Syrians, and most certainly the Lebanese, have explicitly declared that they separate the deportee problem and the issue of the peace negotiations. I believe that if it ultimately transpires that the other negotiating partners are willing to attend the talks, the Palestinians will not be those who remain outside. Therefore I hope that the negotiations resume much earlier, if not in February than in March—and certainly not in April because that would involve a protracted hiatus that would be to no one's benefit.

[Dan] This question is meant in fun, so please do not take offense: How is that you, with your extensive PLO connections, cannot do anything to speed things up. I am referring to the report which was published in HADASHOT today. Tomorrow HADASHOT will carry a long article which includes your name in a list of Labor party officials which already met with Senior PLO officials back in 1991.

[Beilin] I would like to tell you something. I was always very careful not to break any laws, this law included. The reason for this was that I never wanted to give the Israeli right wing cause to claim that because people like me break a certain law, which they consider not only wrong but also shameful, then the right wing can also break the law as it sees fit. That is why I never met any PLO officials. I never spoke with any of them or shook their hand, and anyone who writes that in the newspaper, the HADASHOT report included, is simply fantasizing and incapable of proving these assertions.

[Dayan] Nevertheless, Yehoshu'a Me'iri writes on a first-hand basis. He does not even quote anyone. He writes: On 19 January, I met a senior official of the U.S. Embassy in Egypt at the Ramses Hilton in Cairo. It was early in the morning, and while we were still talking I saw Beilin walk past me and enter one of the rooms. The Egyptian bodyguard who accompanied Beilin remained in the corridor. Several minutes later, Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser entered the same room. He also describes another meeting in June 1991. He saw you there!

[Beilin] Okay, what do you want me to say. That I did not....

[Dayan] That it was a case of mistaken identity or what?

[Beilin] Look, I never exchanged a word with him. He possibly could have been in some room and I failed to recognize him, but I cannot be responsible for everything. I never exchanged a word....[changes thought]. Not that I see anything so terrible about it. I opposed the law banning such meetings, and I was not happy when it was passed by the Knesset, and today, when such meetings are no longer a criminal offense, I certainly would not insist on denying them; however, it simply did not happen. It is simply a lie, I never spoke with Nabil Sha'th nor any other PLO official. [passage omitted]

Rabin Reportedly Planning 'Kitchen Cabinet'

TA0502112993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Orli Katz-Azulay]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin plans to set up a "kitchen cabinet," comprising ministers and other senior party officials, soon.

Elements close to Rabin said last night that for some time now Rabin has been close to a decision in this vein. Rabin would like to hold narrow consultations on political issues and to be involved more deeply in party affairs.

The decision to expedite the establishment of the consultation forum was apparently made in the wake of recent events which pointed to disarray in the party: Ya'el Dayan's trip to Tunis; the poll in which ministers were interviewed anonymously; statements by Minister Liba'i; and the harsh criticism voiced by Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom.

Party sources assert that the fact of the forum will refute the charge that Rabin does not include ministers in his decisionmaking and that, essentially, he decides alone on crucial and sensitive issues.

Labor elements noted yesterday that Hagay Merom's attack was not launched independently. According to them, while there was no camp-related scheme or renewed Peres-Rabin animosity behind the attack, Merom did not act independently and his attack was planned with two or three other MK's, who were determined to stage the move.

Speaking yesterday at the Labor Bureau, which convened to discuss cabinet "snafus," Rabin said: "I know of no cabinet with as much freedom of speech as this one. I appeal to all of you to stop this free-for-all."

Army Finds Arms, Incitement Material in Mosques

TA0202182093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Civil Administration officials are currently displaying to correspondents weapons and incitement material seized in large mosques in the territories. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that among other things uncovered were cold steel weapons, masks for the use of masked youths, and yarmulkes which are apparently used by terrorists for masquerading as Jews for kidnapping purposes.

The incitement materials include derogatory remarks aimed against Zionism and Judaism, calls for opposing the political process, continuing the intifadah and encouragement for the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads. Documents connecting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] with extremist Muslim movements in the world, including Europe and the United States, were also uncovered.

Bomb Safely Neutralized Near Hebron Mosque

TA0202183993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] An explosive device was planted today by the mosque in the center of Hebron. An Arab resident of Hebron discovered the device and reported it to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and to the security officer of the Jewish settlement in Hebron. The bomb was composed of several hand grenades and incendiary materials. The explosive was safely neutralized.

Israeli Injured by Stone; 50 Cars Torched in Jan

TA0402165393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] An Israeli citizen was moderately wounded when a rock hit her in the chest near the village of Nahallin in the Ramallah District. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that she was driven in an Army vehicle when a rock was thrown at it. She was taken to the Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer. Seconds before this, a firebomb was thrown at an Israeli car driving in front of the military car. The firebomb exploded on the road, but no one was hurt and no damage was caused.

In East Jerusalem, two Israeli cars were set on fire and heavily damaged today. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that in one incident, a car was stoned near Damascus Gate, and its windshield was smashed. The driver, who was alone in the car, panicked and left the car seeking help. When she returned there with the police, they found the car overturned and on fire.

Our correspondent notes that since the beginning of this year, 50 cars have already been torched in Jerusalem. The issue was discussed in yesterday's cabinet session, and the police minister said that the Jerusalem police will be reinforced to fight the phenomenon.

King Receives 'Arafat for Talks on Deportees

JN0402162693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The two leaders explored ways of further strengthening distinguished Jordanian-Palestinian relations and exchanged views about issues of mutual concern, focusing on the Palestinian deportees and the challenges facing the Arab nation.

Present at the meeting were Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Court Chief Khalid al-Karaki, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Jordan's chief negotiator to the Middle East peace talks. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Amr, Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, and Iliya Khuri, as well as Palestinian ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

'Arafat Comments

JN0402190193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation at the Royal Hashemite Court today. [passage omitted]

Emerging from the meeting, Mr. 'Arafat was interviewed by our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I am glad and proud to say that it has been, as always, a warm, positive, fruitful, and constructive session. We talked about the concerns and problems of our people in the occupied territory, their blessed intifadah, and the expellees, theirs being a pressing, important, and fundamental issue. We also stressed the need for their speedy repatriation, God willing, so that we can proceed with the negotiations, the struggle, and other Palestinian concerns. His majesty and I also discussed how we can bring about the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 in full, not in the Rabin-style approach of sidestepping international legitimacy and UN resolutions. We ask whether there is one yardstick or two against which international legitimacy is judged—one for the Palestinians, Libya, Iraq, and the Arab nation, and another for Israel. We are asking a legitimate question—all of us, not just me or the Palestinian people or the Jordanian people or the Arab nation.

Other topics of interest to the Arab nation came up during the meeting. We stressed that, despite all the bitterness, we have to do all that we can to heal the rift in Arab relations and promote Arab solidarity and unity at all levels. [end recording]

'Arafat Leaves for Cairo

JN0502125493 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Amman for Cairo today ending an official visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn for talks on bilateral relations.

His majesty the king and president 'Arafat also discussed the issue of the Palestinians expelled by Israel from the occupied Arab territories.

Iraqi Vice President Ramadan Visits

Received by King

JN0402180393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1708 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan received in Amman today Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and vice president.

In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Amman, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he relayed greetings from leader President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn, given the fact that the two fraternal countries maintain brotherly ties. Ramadan added that the talks centered on Iraq's peaceful initiative of declaring a unilateral cease-fire on 19 January, on Iraq's seriousness and its commitment to this initiative, and also on its seriousness and commitment to comply with resolutions. He noted that Iraq underscores the fact that its sovereignty and rights over its territory must be respected.

The vice president pointed out that he briefed King Husayn on the results of his visit to Algeria, which was aimed at enhancing and bolstering the strong fraternal ties between Iraq and Algeria. The visit also allowed the vice president to brief Algerian officials on the zealous Iraqis' endeavors to rebuild Iraq, drawing solely on their intrinsic capabilities to rebuild what the aggressors destroyed.

In his statement, the vice president noted that King Husayn reiterated Jordan's support for Iraq in its confrontation of the aggressive conspiracy to which it is exposed. The king, Ramadan added, paid tribute to Iraq's initiative and to its positive stands, as manifested its unilateral cease-fire. The king also praised Iraq's complete commitment to this cease-fire.

Ramadan maintained that King Husayn highly values Iraqi initiative and deemed it a serious one which would effectively contribute toward the creation of security and stability in the region.

Concluding his statement, the vice president said: His Majesty King Husayn asked me to relay his fraternal greetings to leader President Saddam Husayn. The king also underscored the importance of the continuation of consultations and the exchange of views between Iraq

and Jordan on overall issues that concern our nation and the region, given their common stands, in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the chief of the Royal Court, two undersecretaries from the Foreign Ministry, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and vice president, arrived in Amman last night at the end of a two-day visit to Algeria. In statements to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Amman, the vice president said that his visit to Jordan is aimed at holding talks and meetings with senior Jordanian officials on the most important Arab and international issues that are of common interest, at enhancing bilateral ties in all spheres, and at maintaining consultations and cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Interviewed on U.S. Ties

JN0402200093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan at the Royal Hashemite Court today. [passage omitted]

Emerging from the meeting, Ramadan was interviewed by Kassab Samawi, our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Ramadan] The meeting was quite honest, and we expressed our determination to keep ourselves engaged in joint action and consultations over all matters of shared interest and whatever problems the Arab nation may face. We also agreed to keep in touch over joint objectives. As usual, we exchanged views about bilateral cooperation and the blockade-related obstacles impeding it. We also talked about pressing regional issues, international affairs, and how to proceed both jointly and individually to further our common goals, and agreed to maintain and consolidate this approach.

[Samawi] You arrived here from Algeria. Is it fair to call this an Iraqi diplomatic offensive, and, if so, what is it all about?

[Ramadan] In light of the Iraqi initiative on 19 January, we felt we had to move, not in absolute and universal terms, but to build upon this initiative. Plus, the visit to Algeria was timely, given that it had been some time since officials of the two states had any consultations. We also wanted to acquaint ourselves with Algerian developments, and to acquaint them with the background of the initiative and explore the potential for consolidating it.

[Samawi] In light of the Iraqi initiative and your repeated calls for real dialogue with the U.S. Administration, can you see a new chapter of U.S.-Iraqi relations on the horizon?

[Ramadan] As you have just pointed out—and not as some may imagine—this has not been the first Iraqi initiative underscoring dialogue rather than force—the practice embraced thus far—as the correct approach for solving a problem. This approach was tried both before and after 2 August 1990. Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn had a role in this regard, and they tried, but there was a determination not to pursue the course of dialogue. However, we cannot possibly say that we are certain that the new U.S. Administration will live up to the aspirations of all peace-loving people in the United States, Europe, and the world at large. [end recording]

Further on Remarks

JN0502103193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has asserted that his visit and tour aim at holding consultations with Arab leaders and brothers over hot regional issues and world conditions in general.

In statements to Jordanian television in Amman this evening, Ramadan said: Our visit was aimed at holding inter-Arab consultations and at discussing joint cooperation, regional conditions, Arab affairs, matters of shared interest to Iraq, Algeria, and Jordan, and developments in the Arab arena.

He said: The visit to Algeria was timely after the Iraqi initiative. There had to be a move, not in comprehensive or general terms, but in the direction of certain stations which can help bolster this initiative.

He added: We needed this visit because we always have to discuss the special relations with Algeria in order to strengthen Arab cooperation and solidarity. In that regard, we found a sound pan-Arab trend and positive stands toward, and a good understanding of, Arab issues.

Regarding the 19 January Iraqi initiative, the vice president said: This initiative was not the first as some people may imagine. It affirms the Iraqi position, which believes that the logic of dialogue is the right path. This was Iraq's view before August 1990. The Jordanian monarch was very well aware of, and championed this position. He also supports such an approach.

Ramadan added: That initiative was not launched in a vacuum, because we are, at the same time, certain about the need for it and believe that every honorable person, in the United States or anywhere else, should deal with it. We hope that this initiative will be dealt with and we are working toward that end. Iraq has not proposed this initiative as a tactic; rather, it constitutes the basis for our view of life and way of dealing with hot issues.

Taha Yasin Ramadan explained that the way the initiative was proposed was clear and genuinely expressed Iraq's sincere intention to tackle all problems. He pointed out that through it, Iraq has demonstrated its genuine good intentions. The aim of the talks and consultations with the Arab brothers, he said, was to assert the Iraqi position and to discuss all problems,

beginning with the blockade and all of the UN resolutions, in order to arrive at a common understanding with them over all the things required.

Ramadan answered a question on Iran's position toward Iraq before and after the Mother of Battles. He said: We know Iran very well and I believe that everyone knows it and knows its attitudes toward the Arabs, and Iraq in particular. Iran is elusive and has a regime that harbors rancor against Iraq and this nation. It tries to take advantage of this nation's current circumstances, fragmentation, and division, and abnormal conditions; and in the light of all this, the Iranian regime defines its objectives and evil schemes in the Gulf and Iraq. Everybody knows how the Iranian regime took advantage of the Mother of Battles circumstances, as well as its hostile statements and attempts to take advantage of the Iraqi conditions then. Now, it still holds some 20,000 Iraqi prisoners without any justification.

Taha Yasin Ramadan noted the Iranian regime's betrayal of trust, after it agreed with Iraq to leave Iraqi aircraft with them. He also noted its execution of an anti-Iraqi conspiratorial scheme to push Iranian infiltrators to carry out acts of sabotage, plunder, and murder against the people of Iraq.

At the conclusion of the interview, the vice president spoke about the Arab condition in general. He said: The nation has never seen such a degeneration and collapse of values on the part of some Arab rulers. I mean in particular the Hafar al-Batin rulers, who placed themselves at the side of the enemy to murder and slaughter the Iraqi people. The facts and events have exposed these rulers and their intentions to Arab citizens everywhere. The Arab citizen now knows who is faithful to his country and nation at this difficult phase.

Ramadan concluded his interview by extending greetings and appreciations to the Jordanian people, individuals, groups, political frameworks, and the mass and professional associations which supported Iraq's position and the Iraqi and Jordanian leadership and genuinely demonstrated that this nation stands as one against anyone who tries to infringe on our will and noble objectives.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN0402202993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in Amman this evening Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president. The meeting was attended by Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir.

Following the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan made a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Amman saying that the talks dealt with bilateral ties and means of enhancing them to further bolster the fraternal and special ties between the two countries.

The vice president added: The two sides affirmed the importance of continuing dialogue on issues that are of mutual concern, and exchanging visits by officials of the two countries to construct the necessary requirements and rise to the required level, in terms of generating fraternal dealings in all spheres.

The vice president noted that it has been agreed to surmount all obstacles standing in the way of joint action by the two countries—obstacles created by the difficult circumstances facing the two countries and the Arab nation at this time.

Ramadan said that the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the meeting and with their continuing talks. He added that the results of this meeting were positive and fruitful, and thus helped promote the interests of the two fraternal countries.

Hasan Meets Russian First Deputy Chief of Staff

JN0302181393 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan met at his office the Russian First Deputy Chief of Staff Mr. (Andreas Nikolayev) and his accompanying delegation currently on a visit to Jordan. They discussed means of bolstering friendship relations between Jordan and Russia.

His highness briefed the Russian official on Jordan's interest in the peace process and its firm belief in the importance of having peaceful equations to solve problems all over the world.

Al-Hariri-Christopher Talks Called 'Positive'

NC0402202793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher this evening. The two consulted on the current situation in light of recent regional developments.

Informed sources have told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that the discussion between al-Hariri and Christopher focused on two main topics. The first was the Palestinian deportees and the Lebanese Government's stand on the recent U.S. initiative regarding this issue. The second dealt with the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The sources described the telephone conversation as positive. Al-Hariri affirmed Lebanon's firm stand on the deportees issue, a stand which calls for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799. As for the Arab-Israeli talks, al-Hariri affirmed that Lebanon joined these talks on the basis of a joint Arab decision. Lebanon is committed to the content of this decision in the coming phase.

Deportees Swear No Return Unless All Permitted

NC0502122193 Paris AFP in English 1214 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Marj al-Zuhur, Feb 5 (AFP)—Some 400 Palestinian deportees stranded in south Lebanon on Friday [5 February] rejected an Israeli offer to take back a quarter of them immediately.

At midday prayers, the deportees swore to God, before the international media, that they would only return home if all were allowed back. [passage omitted]

Ex-Premier Fears Bargaining Over Resolution 425

NC0402132893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpt] High-ranking political sources have said that the Palestinian deportation issue may endanger the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. These sources expressed apprehension that there may be external bargaining over implementing this resolution, as occurred with Resolution 799.

Former Prime Minister Amin al-Hafiz, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, today called for a meeting between the committee members and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to study developments in the peace talks. Al-Hafiz said that the method with which the issue of the Palestinian deportees has been addressed, the way Security Council Resolution 799 was debated, and the attempt to implement it make us apprehensive that other resolutions, specifically Resolution 425, may be treated in the same way. Security Council resolutions are either implemented or not. He said he fears U.S. bargaining over implementing Resolution 425, as was the case with Resolution 799. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Radio Details 4 Feb Israeli Attacks

NC0502080293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Enemy attacks continued yesterday against the liberated villages and areas north of the occupied border strip. Reports say the area of Arnun came under artillery fire from Israeli occupation positions in Qal'at al-Shaqif. The bombardment reached the hills of Mlita and the outskirts of al-Luwayzah in Iqlim al-Tuffah, with 120-mm shells falling on the area from Zionist enemy positions in Jabal al-Rayhan. Large-caliber machine-gun fire targeted the area from positions in Tallat Sujud.

In another development, a mechanized Zionist patrol raked the eastern quarters of Kafr Tibnit township, while occupation artillery in al-Qantarah bombarded al-Saluqi valley.

Enemy and agent soldiers set up a checkpoint at Birkat Arnun yesterday, searched citizens' cars, and held citizens for several hours.

Kidnapping Linked to Missing Iranian Diplomats

NC0302193793 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Sources of Butrus Khawand's family have told AL-DIYAR that after intensive inquiries, which he shrouded in complete secrecy, [Phalangist Party leader] Dr. George Sa'adah told the family that President Ilyas al-Hirawi had informed him that the kidnapping of Butrus Khawand [Phalangist Party official kidnapped in Beirut on 15 September 1992] was connected with the disappearance of three Iranian diplomats in Lebanon in 1985. Al- Hirawi also informed Sa'adah that the kidnappers want to known the fate of the Iranian diplomats.

Sources of Khawand's family said that Dr. Sa'adah informed the family that he cannot do anything in this connection. The president is also unable to bring about the release of Butrus Khawand, although the state knows where he is being held in view of the sensitivity of the subject.

Sources of Khawand's family said Dr. Sa'adah informed the family that Butrus Khawand is being held somewhere in Beirut.

Christopher Phones al-Shar' for Talks on Deportees

JN0502062293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a telephone call last night from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Conversation revolved around the Palestinian deportees issue, the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799, and returning the deportees to their homes.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' voiced Syria's deep concern about Israel's noncompliance with the UN Security Council resolutions. He asserted that returning some of the deportees does not solve the problem because Security Council resolutions should not be subject to compromises.

Conversation also revolved around the possibility of resuming the peace talks. On his part, the U.S. secretary of state explained the efforts exerted by the United States in this regard and expressed a desire to visit Damascus within the framework of a tour of regional capitals.

Commentary Sees Return of U.S. Bias Toward Israel

JN0502132993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The crime of deportation, whose chapters are still continuing, has revealed many facts and exposed positions which were trying to deceive world public opinion and throw dust in everyone's eyes. The first of these facts is that the Yitzhaq Rabin government, which came to power under glittering slogans and statements about concern for peace and for giving the peace process a push forward, was exposed very quickly. It has been proven that this government is not less intransigent and is not less determined to obstruct the peace process than the Shamir government. It is also as racist, aggressive, and tyrannical against the Palestinian people as all previous Israeli governments. This government's promises and talk to the Israeli voters about achieving peace and stability have gone with the wind. The claims propagated by the Zionist trumpets and those revolving in their orbit that Rabin is a peace advocate also turned out to be false. Those near and far have come to know that the Rabin government is a government of continuous crimes against the Palestinians, and a government that seeks to obstruct and abort the peace process. The second fact revealed by the crime of deportation is this flagrant policy of double standards toward the implementation of international resolutions. Resolution 799 on the return of deportees is a glaring example of this selectivity and double standards policy. This has shaken international credibility and the bases of the new world approach toward solving regional conflicts. There has also been a growing concern in all parts of the world about the fate of world peace and the ability to extinguish hotbeds of tensions and wars and to curb the lust for aggression, occupation, and violation of the future of states and peoples. The third fact is the return of the blind U.S. bias toward Israel and the dictum that there is no U.S. Middle East policy, but an Israeli policy executed by America in this region. Perhaps, this matter—which emerged strongly with the arrival of the new U.S. Administration and through its stands toward circumventing Resolution 799, its compromise on the bodies of the 400 Palestinians by returning 100 of them and leaving the rest, the prevention of the UN Security Council from implementing Resolution 799, and above all its concluding an exposed deal with the Rabin government under the banner of a U.S. commitment to preventing any international body or organization, henceforth, from issuing resolutions against Israel—we say that this matter poses a grave danger, especially since it further complicates the situation, heats up the atmosphere, and escalates tension and instability in the region.

Of course, we did not expect the United States to abandon its chronic bias toward Israel. However, we also did not expect the Clinton administration to begin the first 100 days of its arrival at the White House with this bias toward Israel, ignoring the U.S. responsibility as a superpower to world peace, as well as its responsibility as an actual sponsor of the peace process, which necessitates its adherence to the principles of fairness and balance when dealing with the region's issues and with two parties, one of which does not show any readiness to accept the bases of the peace process, does all that it can to obstruct it, and perpetrates brutal crimes against the unarmed Palestinian people while the other party cooperates and shows full readiness to make the former U.S. administration's initiative succeed, an initiative which the Clinton administration promised to follow up on. We have the right to ask: If the U.S. Administration does not want to solve the issue of the 400 deportees, including the implementation of Resolution 799, taking into consideration that it is only a subissue of the Arab-Israeli conflict, except through this twisted manner, then how will it contribute to solving the bigger issue; namely, achieving a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy just as what was included in the U.S. initiative on launching the peace process in the region? Does this not cast doubts on the new U.S. Administration's stand toward the entire peace process, particularly the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for the peace process. It is difficult for this method to help push the peace process forward or remove obstacles from its way. This is because this method strengthens one party at the expense of the other and encourages the aggressor. No one can consider this as other than a reward to Israel for its crimes, of which the crime of deportation is not the first nor will it be the last.

In light of this situation, and in order to keep the door of hope open for bolstering peace efforts in the region and restoring confidence to the international legitimacy in the world, it is necessary to continue to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799 as it is. The Security Council itself should determine the mechanism of implementation, especially

since it, and no one else, is the only party entitled to do so. The UN Security Council resolutions must not be subject to compromise, because this is considered a serious precedent which will reflect negatively on the future of the United Nations and on the resolutions it has already adopted and those it will adopt, and paves the way for evading their implementation and for not taking them into consideration as if they do not exist. Compromising the UN Security Council resolutions torpedoes the prestige of this council and gives Israel a chance to evade the implementation of UN resolutions in part and parcel. Should it continue with this, the U.S. Administration will be driving a deep wedge in the path of the peace process. Rewarding the aggressor and encouraging its rebellion against the resolutions of international legitimacy will only reflect negatively on the peace process and create a volatile and disturbed situation which will eventually lead this process to a dead-end. Certainly, this will not be in the interest of peace, stability, and security in the Middle East.

Afghanistan

Chinese President Congratulates Rabbani

LD0402174893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China, has sent the following congratulatory message to Kabul addressed to esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani on the occasion of his election as president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan:

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani:

I express my sincere congratulations on the occasion of your election as president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. I wish you good health and success, and prosperity to the friendly people of Afghanistan.

[Signed] Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China.

Radio Notes Rocket Attacks, Damage to Embassies

LD0402172493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Following the mopping-up operation and the destruction of the heavy weapon positions of the agitating Golboddin group, the Islamic military forces again carried out an aerial bombardment and artillery shelling of the enemy's positions and fortifications today.

A responsible source of the Ministry of Defense told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] correspondent that yesterday an agitating section of the Golboddin group attempted an advance from the south, but was confronted with strong resistance by the Islamic military forces and thus their aggression was foiled. During this aggression, a number of the Golboddin agitators were either killed or injured. Many of their weapons and much of their ammunition fell into the hands of the Islamic military forces.

According to another report, a section of the Golboddin agitating group fired unguided rockets last night and today at Kabul city. A responsible source of the security forces reported to the BIA military section that the agitators, by launching 115 Sakr-type rockets, martyred 28 Muslim and innocent citizens of Kabul and injured another 65 people during last night and today. Those injured were quickly transferred to hospitals and put under intensive care and treatment. The source added that these rockets mostly landed in the second, third, fourth, 10th, and 11th wards of the city, causing, in addition to a loss of life, extensive material losses. A number of these unguided rockets landed on the embassies of friendly countries and residences of foreign subjects in Kabul . The Embassies of Iran, Pakistan, and India were hit, killing one Indian citizen and injuring two Iranians.

Isolation of Hekmatyar Urged

LD0402203593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Commentary by BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY political commentator]

[Text] The subversive activities of the rebellious Golboddin forces are gaining new dimensions. To discredit the humanitarian actions of the Islamic government they are now trying to attack the international institutions and diplomatic quarters and thus intend to force them out of our country. The political commentator of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY writes:

A few days ago the agitators killed four employees of an organization attached to the United Nations along the road between Torkhan and Jalalabad and then plundered their motor vehicles. This is not the first time they committed such actions. They have committed similar actions in the not so distant past. Here in Kabul such regions are being targeted by the rebellious forces where the diplomatic missions are residing: The Italian Embassy, the residence of the Indian ambassador, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan were hit by rockets causing loss of life and property.

Why are they embarking on such agitation? Obviously our Islamic government enjoys national and international legitimacy after the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Ahl-e Hal wa 'Aqd] and after the election of the president of our country's Islamic State. If the agitators had not been firing rockets, many of the diplomatic missions would have been active by now and the recognition of our country would have been accelerated. The rebels who see the end of their political life because of this fear have hysterically embarked on killing the people and destroying the quarters of diplomatic missions. Such actions on their part [words indistinct] will soon be made a vain effort. The United Nations and friendly countries who know full well the nature of the rebellious forces can play a further role in the isolation of Golboddin and can stop him from the perpetration of [words indistinct] for ending the miseries of our (? nation).

The Muslim nation of Afghanistan and our Islamic State are sorry for the human tragedy committed against the UN local and foreign employees. The government, in accordance with the statement issued, will prosecute the perpetrators of this action and will sentence them to the maximum punishment.

The main objective of the mopping-up operation carried out by the Islamic forces is the elimination of the rocket launchers and heavy artillery positions of the agitating forces from where they kill our compatriots and destroy the diplomatic offices and prevent them from discharging their duties. The most important objective in this task is to restore the necessary conditions for the peaceful life of our Muslim people and to pave the way

for the reconstruction of the country which at the same time prepares the ground for normal diplomatic activities in the country.

* Correspondent Reports on Kabul Battles

93P50036A

[Editorial Report] London AL-HAYAH in Arabic on 29 January carries a report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan from Peshawar and the AL-HAYAH bureau in Jeddah that the opposition Hezb-e Eslami forces under Golboddin Hekmatyar advanced toward the Afghan capital on 28 January and took strategic positions south and west of it. It quotes the Afghan Defense Ministry as admitting that its attacks on Hekmatyar's Char Asiab headquarters failed and that its forces withdrew from the region of Bud Khak east of Kabul after fierce fighting. It adds that the Defense Ministry forces aimed their attacks at the crossroads between Char Asiab south of the capital and the city of Jalalabad east of it. Jami'at-e Eslami sources in Peshawar told AL-HAYAH that their forces had withdrawn from the Khayrabad hills overlooking Char Asiab. The report says that Hekmatyar strengthened his positions in the south and southwest and tried to open a new front so that he would have a way to retreat. However, it says that the new front is located in territory controlled by the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat, which refuses to allow the Hezb-e Eslami forces to cross it to attack government forces. The report quotes sources "close to the Hezb-e Eslami" as saying that it will attack the Hezb-e Wahdat forces if they persist in this refusal and that the Hezb-e Eslami does not want to open a new front with the Shiites because this would force its men to fight on two fronts. Hezb-e Eslami sources also told AL-HAYAH that their positions in Bagh-e Babor and Chehel Suton had faced intense artillery and rocket fire followed by ground attacks, but that its forces had stopped the attacks.

On 30 January, Zaydan reports from Peshawar that the government forces had moved air mobile elements to Sarobi between Kabul and Jalalabad in nine troop-carrying helicopters. The helicopters reportedly landed troops in the city, but were surrounded by Hezb-e Eslami forces. One of the helicopters was destroyed; a second escaped, and the remainder were cut off. AL-HAYAH said that, according to "informed sources," the government is trying to raise the seige of its forces in the Pol-e Charkhi prison and of the 26th Division east of Kabul. Hezb-e Eslami sources told Zaydan that the faction had destroyed three tanks east of the capital and captured positions near the Military University and foru positions held by the 26th Division. At the same time, government sources were telling the newspaper that the government had taken all of the Hezb-e Eslami positions east of the capital and sources in the Defense Ministry were insisting that its forces had withdrawn from the east. The report said that government sources disclosed that 120 senior Communist generals and officials had returned to Kabul from Russia and India, among them General Asif Dilawar, former chief of staff; Gen Nabi Azimi, former Central Corps commander; and Farid Mazdak, Communist Homeland Party general secretary. They added that the generals had been made advisers to the Ministry of Defense.

On 31 January, Zaydan goes on to report that the Hezb-e Eslami forces are preparing to assault Kabul from the south and southwest. He quotes "informed Afghan sources" as saying on 30 January that Hekmatyar was "quite near" the city and that only one military concentration of the 26th Division still kept him from it. The same sources told him that, with the fall of this strong point, the road from Jalalabad to Kabul lies open to Hekmatyar.

Bangladesh

Opposition Rejects Poll Result, Calls For Strike

BK0502072893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 5 (AFP)—Bangladesh's opposition party has rejected this week's by-election result in a suburban parliamentary constituency where a ruling party supporter was killed in sporadic violence, police said Friday.

Asad Mahmud, 20, was shot as he was watching television late Thursday in Mirpur where the by-election had been held.

Police were investigating whether the shooting was motivated by the result of Wednesday's poll—won by ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) candidate Syed Mohammed Mohsin.

Violence flared after the announcement of the result which was rejected by the opposition Awami League, who accused the BNP of "dirty tricks" and called for fresh polls and a general strike.

Mahmud, an activist in the BNP's student wing, was shot through a window by a group of unidentified young men, local sources said.

No fresh violence was reported Friday, police said.

Some 15 people were arrested Thursday in post-election violence, police said. The Awami League said 40 of its supporters had been arrested.

Police said eight vehicles were damaged in clashes between groups of stone-throwing rival supporters.

Mohsin won the by-election by 2,592 votes from the Awami League candidate Kamal Ahmed Majumder.

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed then led Awami League MPs in a brief walk-out from the evening session of parliament.

Wajed earlier accused the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of winning the by-election through a "media coup," saying it had resorted to "malpractices ... and dirty tricks." She also demanded fresh polls be held at 16 of the 117 polling centres.

Government ministers rejected the accusations.

The Awami League also called for a half-day general strike in Dhaka Saturday and a nationwide stoppage Wednesday.

The actual polling on Wednesday was peaceful, with some 11,000 paramilitary troops, police and militia maintaining security.

India

Minister Denies Resigning From Committee

BK0402160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The human resources development minister has denied reports that he has resigned from a Cabinet subcommittee on the Ayodhya white paper. He told newsmen in New Delhi today that he had only requested the prime minister to assign the task of finalizing the white paper on Ayodhya to somebody else.

The Congress-I has accused the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] of preaching what it called pseudo-Hinduism. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, the party spokesman Mr. V.N. Gadgil said this is nothing but anti-minoritism. He said the BJP will never succeed in communalizing the Indian polity, as the basic instict of the people is secular.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has rejected the prime minister's suggestion for a moratorium for three to four years on the Ayodhya issue. Addressing a press conference in Calcutta today, the party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, said that there cannot be any moratorium on such a burning issue.

Rao Views Threat To Foil Tripura Elections

BK0502040693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The prime minister said that appropriate measures will be taken to thwart the alleged threat by the underground forces of ATTF [All Tripura Tribal Force] to jeopardize the assembly elections in Tripura schedule on 15 February. Mr. Narasimha Rao gave this assurance while talking to a delegation of the Tripura Upajati Juba Samity [Tripura Tribal Youth Association] led by its president, Mr. Shama Charan Tripura, in Agartala last night. He said that the union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, and the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallik Arjun, will visit the state soon to review the prevailing law and order situation in view of the assembly elections.

Pakistani Claim of Human Rights Violation Denied

BK0402160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, more arms and ammunition have been recovered near the line of control after yesterday's biggest-ever arms haul. The recovery was made by army jawans [soldiers] who foiled a major intrusion attempt by Pakistani-trained militants. Two militants, including a self-styled commander, were killed and 38 arrested during search operations at different places since yesterday.

India has warned Pakistan against attempts to undermine its territorial integrity by calling for self-determination in Jammu and Kashmir. India's permanent representative to the UN, Mr. Satish Chandra, said that Islamabad by raising this issue at the session of UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva has chosen to divert the commission's attention from its work and raise the issue, which has no bearing on the agenda. Rejecting Pakistan's allegations of human rights violations in the state, the ambassador told the commission that the problem, in fact, is the creation of Pakistan.

Arms Seized Near Kashmir Line of Control

BK0502043093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, another big consignment of arms and ammunition has been captured near the line of control in the area where the biggest-ever haul had been made two days ago. Overall, the arms and ammunition recovered include 25,000 rounds of AK-47 rifles, 1,700 grenades, over 1,000 grenade fuses, 19 antipersonnel mines, one sniper rifle, and a telescope. A group of Pakistan-trained militants had attempted to trespass into the valley, but army jawans [soldiers] foiled their move making the militants flee back into the Pak-occupied Kashmir leaving behind their arms and ammunition.

Medium-Range Missile Firing Test Set in Orissa

BK0502034893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The medium range surface-to-surface missile Prithvi [Earth] will be test fired between today and Sunday [7 February] from the test range at Chandipur in Balasar District of Orissa. The district administration has asked about 600 people of four villages near the site to shift to nearby camps as a precaution. This would be the fourth test launch of the missile.

Bhatia Holds Talks With PRC Radio, TV Minister

BK0502092093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] A Chinese delegation led by the minister for radio, film, and television, Mr. Ai Zhisheng, called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, in New Delhi today. They discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation.

Singh, Singapore Information Minister Sign Pact

BK0502090893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] India and Singapore today signed their first ever memorandum of understanding for cooperation in arts, heritage, and archives. The cultural documents were signed in New Delhi by the human resources development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, and the Singapore minister for information and arts, Mr. B.G. George Yeo. The memorandum of understanding envisages the exchange of artists for participation in each other's festivals, exhibitions, and publications, besides audio-visual material and archival records.

New Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram Governors Appointed

BK0502092493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The president has appointed Mr. Bali Ram Bhagat as the governor of Himachal Pradesh. Mr. P.R. Kindia will be the governor of Mizoram. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] communique issued in New Delhi today says the appointments will take effect from the day they assume office.

Punjab To Increase Power of Village Councils

BK0502092293 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, today administered the oath to over 14,600 panches [village council members] and surpanches [village headman] of Fatehgarh, Rupar, and Patiala Districts. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Beant Singh said that the state government is committed to give more powers to the village panchayats [village councils] for the effective implementation of welfare programs. He said peace has been restored in Punjab to a great extent and the people living abroad have started setting up industries in the state.

British Prime Minister Interviewed Before Visit

BK0402134593 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 93 p 12

["Text" of interview with British Prime Minister John Major by THE HINDUSTAN TIMES editor H.K. Dua in London on 20 January]

[Excerpt] H.K. Dua: Mr Prime Minister, what exactly is going to be the focus of your talks with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao?

John Major: I think we will want to discuss a range of things. Clearly we will want to discuss the Anglo-Indian relationship. I think it is very good; it is a very long-established relationship, there is a very substantial trade flow between the two countries, we are both prominent members of the Commonwealth, we are able to liaise on many matters there; there is a substantial aid relationship between the United Kingdom and India. And India is also a giant in her region, one of the great nations of the world, so we will certainly want to discuss many regional problems. So I think all those will be part of a very substantial agenda with the Prime Minister.

Dua: I am told that you are taking a very large delegation of businessmen with you, what is the purpose of this?

Major: We have a big trading relationship, we have always had a big trading relationship with India, but it can be bigger. Many of these businessmen will be looking at investment in India, others will be looking at trading opportunities, and I think that is an attractive way to further deepen and thicken the relationship between our two countries.

Dua: Do you hope in the next two or three years British investment in India will increase, considering that the Indian government has launched a policy of liberalisation?

Major: I think the policy of liberalisation is very important. We have seen around the world in the last 20 years that those sort of policies are critical to attracting inward investment from overseas. I think there are many attractive reasons for people to invest in India, those are decisions for businessmen, they are not decisions for me as Prime Minister. I can simply say that I am delighted to have the businessmen with me and from the British government's point of view we will always encourage a greater investment flow and trade flow between ourselves and the Commonwealth and specifically of course with India.

Dua: What are some special areas in which Britain is looking for investment in India?

Major: I think that is a matter for the businessmen, not for me, and I do not want to suggest to them what those areas should be. They know, they have examined it, many of them are familiar with India and they are coming back to look again at the prospects. But I must leave the choice of where they invest to them.

Dua: For quite some time, India and Britain have cooperated with each other in combating terrorism. The two countries have signed an extradition treaty and lately another treaty has been signed for exchanging information on trafficking in drugs and terrorism. When is the extradition treaty going to be ratified by Britain?

Major: I cannot give you an exact date when the treaty will be ratified; it requires further consideration on a number of aspects. What I think is the bigger picture is what is the problem we face? Both the United Kingdom and India have had a long experience of terrorism, a long and a very painful and unhappy experience of terrorism, and I think it is very wise of us to both take action to combat it. We are seeking to do so, not just within our two countries. But the United Kingdom has also taken action to deal with many of the root causes of terrorism. Much of the way their money is raised from time to time

is on the traffic of drugs, we have taken initiatives within the European Community to deal with the problem of drugs. Crime has no national borders these days and neither does terrorism. The terrorist from one country, to make a political point, is often apt to strike at nationals of that country —but in another country, perhaps on the other side of the world. So there is an international battle against terrorism and it is a battle that needs to be joined by governments around the world and by civilised people around the world and, I think, the joint attempts to do that will lead to the ratification of many more treaties than the one we have in mind.

Dua: We have a problem in India because of terrorism. There have been attempts made by Pakistan to encourage terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir and the Indian government has been making you aware of this problem; they have been discussing this with you. Is Britain exercising some pressure or persuasion on Pakistan to see that there is no interference in Punjab and Kashmir and no encouragement by Pakistan to terrorist activity in these two states?

Major: We are a friendly advocate to all sides in trying to bring peace to that troubled region in Kashmir. We know the concerns that India have, we hear also the concerns that Pakistan have. They are both members of the Commonwealth; Pakistan are back in the Commonwealth, and the United Kingdom as a senior Commonwealth member is very keen to try and see what it can do to allay the concerns that exist in both countries. So the answer is, yes we are concerned about it and you will know there is a very significant amount of political interest in what happens in Kashmir, in the United Kingdom in general and in the House of Commons in particular; a lot of Parliamentarians have expressed their views about that over recent years. We all want to see the dialogue that there has been between the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India continue and a solution be reached. I do not think a solution will be helped by people outside India and Pakistan apportioning blame for the problem. Our best actions on behalf of all the people concerned about Kashmir is to try and encourage the sides to come together and deal with the long standing and deeply felt problems that exist there.

Dua: There have been suggestions from the US to Pakistan suggesting that there is a danger of Pakistan being declared a state which encourages international terrorism. If this kind of suggestion reaches the United Nations, what will be your government's stand on it?

Major: I do not think I want to go further than this. We have urged Pakistan to do all it can to stop the violence in Kashmir. I think we do that from a position of some influence because we are very long and established friends of Pakistan, as we are of India, and I believe that is the right way to use our influence to solve the problem.

Dua: Your government has taken a discreet interest in Kashmir in the last few years and I am told your approach has three points: one, that you have suggested that Pakistan should sort out the Kashmir question under the Simla Agreement; two, that encouragement to terrorism from across the border should be stopped; and three, some sort of political process should be initiated. Would you like to elaborate on your government's position on Kashmir?

Major: I do not think it is for the British government to take a position as to the rights and wrongs of the problem. Whatever individual views we may hold, if we are in the business of bringing the sides together and ending the problem, for us to appear to take sides in the dispute does not help. What we are anxious to do is to make sure there is the beginning, the maintenance and the conclusion of a political dialogue. So our proposals firstly have to create the circumstance in which it is possible for India and Pakistan to engage in a dialogue and then try and encourage that dialogue to reach a satisfactory conclusion. At the end of the day, whatever we do as Britain, whatever anybody else does, the problem is going to be solved by the governments of Pakistan and India. We must act as a friendly and persuasive advocate for negotiations in order to ensure that they proceed. And of course I will discuss that with Prime Minister Rao when I am in New Delhi, just as in the past I have discussed it with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and no doubt will do again.

Dua: What was the response of the Prime Minister of Pakistan on this?

Major: I would no more tell you that than I would tell the Pakistanis what was the response of the Prime Minister of India.

Dua: One question that has been engaging the attention of Britain and India is the question of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The treaty is coming up for review or revision, but there have been suggestions to India from Britain, the United States, other Western countries, that we should sign this treaty. India's position has been that this is very discriminatory—it discriminates between nuclear-haves and nuclear-have-nots. Are you going to discuss this question in New Delhi when you are there?

Major: I would think it would probably come up. Push aside the question of the treaty, either amendment of the treaty or signing of the treaty, and look at the substance that underlies it. In a world with many disputes and much violence, do we wish to see the extension of weapons of mass destruction and ideally we do not. The two superpowers that have the largest stocks in the world have during the last 6 or 7 years dramatically been reducing those stocks. Sane people around the world would like to see them continue reducing those stocks. It becomes progressively more difficult for them to do so if an increasing number of nations actually have nuclear weapons. Now I understand the position of the Indian government, they look at China.

I understand the position of other governments, they look at areas nearby and they say well we are not the only person in the region with this capacity and we the government have a responsibility for the security of our

nation, and I understand that thinking. But I think we do need to continue to keep our eyes on the main prize and the main prize is as far as we are able to achieve two things: to bring down the mega stocks of nuclear weapons that exist at the moment and to prevent their proliferation elsewhere. That is a more important matter than any of the questions that underlie it about amendment of the treaty and who signs it. So self-evidently I am keen for as many people as possible to sign the treaty and for the treaty to be extended.

Dua: We have two problems on this account: one which you mention that China is a nuclear weapons state and in India we perceive that Pakistan also has a few bombs in the basement. And the US which monitors the Pakistani nuclear programme a little more closely, is not able to certify that Pakistan is a non-nuclear state. We have problems with China on one side, Pakistan on another, and then there are some Central Asian republics also who have nuclear weapons. Considering that there are a string of nuclear weapons states around India, don't you think it is disadvantageous for India to go in for a non-proliferation agreement?

Major: I do not ask India to do anything I do not ask Pakistan to do. I do not take sides and say I want India not to have these weapons but I do not mind if Pakistan have them, I do not say that. I would say precisely the same to India on this issue as I would say to Pakistan and I do think it is desirable to restrict nuclear weapons. China has them, it is true, and I understand that argument, it is a powerful argument in the minds of the Indian government. China is a member of the Permanent Five of the Security Council and I think in due course clearly one would like to see nuclear weapons removed from China as well. You mention Pakistan, the position there is unclear, that is true, but I would like to see no nuclear weapons in Pakistan, no unclear weapons in India and in due course no nuclear weapons in China or anywhere else, but that desirable state of affairs is still some time off I think. [passage omitted]

Iran

President Addresses Friday Prayers 5 Feb

LD0502141693 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today urged the Iranians to turn out massively in the demonstrations marking the anniversary of the Islamic revolution next Thursday.

"Your presence at the 22 Bahman [11 February] rallies can be as effective as 1000 atomic bombs against our enemies," he told a huge gathering of people and foreign guests gathered at the mausoleum of the late Imam Khomeyni. The foreign guests are here to attend the celebrations marking the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

Speaking as the substitute leader of the Friday prayers, he said: "We should pay attention to the 22 Bahman rallies. Scenes from massive demonstrations with mothers holding babies in their arms, and men carrying children on their shoulders will be very bitter and disappointing for our enemies," he said.

He added that the enemies were wrongly claiming that the Iranian people had been disillusioned with the revolution "but after watching the Bahman 22 rallies they will realise that all their propaganda is like hammering on cold iron."

Turning to the Islamic world issues, the president expressed concern over the dark prospect in war-torn Bosnia-Hercegovina.

"No serious decisions have been taken by the United Nations, the world powers, or the neighboring countries of this oppressed and afflicted region to end the catastrophe," regretted the president, saying that "I don't think anyone would resolve this Islamic-humanitarian problem in the Balkans unless the Islamic world itself would seriously enter the field of action."

He also voiced concern that such crimes and disasters would be repeated elsewhere in the Balkans and said "If Muslims maintain a weak presence, the danger exists for these crimes to be repeated."

President Rafsanjani also expressed deep regret on the internal war in Afghanistan and said the mujahideen leaders who had fought bravely for 14 years to oust the Soviet aggressors from their homeland were now fighting each other and killing Muslims. "This is very unmanly and demonstrates the lack of maturity of the men who are fighting each other for the sake of the world."

He said when the same people were fighting for the sake of afterlife they became victorious "but today that they have waged a war for the sake of this world and are killing the Muslims, God will certainly humble them." The president expressed hope that the Afghan leaders would be wise enough to end their fighting.

In Tajikistan too, he said, a similar situation was prevailing and expressed regret that Iran was not able to do much in settling those problems.

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani described as "positive" the stances of the Persian Gulf Arab states towards Iran. He said in a Friday prayer sermons a few weeks ago he had criticized the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council for condemning Iran. "Fortunately, they paid attention to our words and adopted an appropriate stance. Their messages indicate that they want to be friends with Islamic Iran and cooperate with it and to keep away from the insinuations of the foreigners."

Rafsanjani received a message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and another from Kuwaiti Emir Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah Thursday. The first was

handed to him by the Saudi education minister and the second by the Kuwaiti foreign minister, both visiting Tehran currently.

Expressing the hope that this positive trend will continue in the future, the president said "We shake their hands warmly and hope to maintain, with their help, the security of the Persian Gulf which is important to the world."

In his first sermon, the president brushed aside as false allegations by world arrogance that the Islamic Republic was getting armed to become a regional power.

Iran's defence industries have been advanced during the Iraqi imposed war (1980-1988), said the president stressing that Iran purchased arms as much as was needed for the country's defence.

In another part of his sermon, he expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the Islamic revolution during the past 14 years.

Turning to the downfall of the shah's regime and administration of the country by the people and the clerics, he said the world in general and Western observers in particular did not expect Iran to succeed in maintaining the balance in the country and in overcoming its problems.

Referring to the enemies' conspiracies against Iran, he said their hopes on coup d'etats, internal unrest and even imposed war were shattered and now they were trying to sabotage Iran post-war reconstruction efforts.

He expressed hope that problems would be eliminated with the full implementation of the two 5-year development plans the first of which was launched in 1989.

He said 700,000 tons of steel had been exported during the current Iranian year (ending March 21, 1993) and achievements in the fields of aluminium, copper, iron, transportation, as well as wagon and locomotive manufacturing were outstanding.

He said one hundred dams are to be built in the framework of the first and second five year plans and that investments have been made on petrochemical factories and construction of industrial townships throughout the country.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD0402145893 Tehran IRNA in English 1336 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah said upon arrival here Thursday [4 February] that the Islamic republic is an important country in the Persian Gulf and that it should not be considered as being separate from the region.

Al-Sabah, here on a two-day official visit, said he was carrying a message for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmed al-Sabah.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister who is also deputy prime minister said that regional countries should patch up their differences peacefully and without any hue and cry so that minor discrepancies would not end in conflict between brotherly countries.

He said while in Tehran he would discuss with Iranian officials bilateral relations, the situation of Kuwait and Iraq and Baghdad's refusal to comply with the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Al-Sabah, on behalf of the Kuwaiti amir, thanked the Islamic republic for the position it took during the Persian Gulf war.

Discusses OPEC Cooperation

LD0402183393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today and submitted a message from the Kuwaiti Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. He also sincerely thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its serious and principled stance toward the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and called for Iran's support for Kuwait in the implementation of the UN resolutions concerning Iraq.

He referred to the importance of regional cooperation, particularly between Kuwait and Iran, and said that his country will not allow Iranian-Kuwaiti relations to be affected by the insinuations of the enemies and the mischief-makers.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister also announced the readiness of his country to cooperate with other OPEC member countries to maintain oil prices as decided by OPEC.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then mentioned that the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any kind of trouble-making for neighboring countries in the region and added: We believe that all UN resolutions on the wars launched by Iraq against Iran and Kuwait should be implemented completely and Iraq should abide by the UN resolutions.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also expressed concern about the presence of foreign forces in the region and stressed that the only way to safeguard regional security is through cooperation and exchanges of views among regional countries.

Finally, the president called for further cooperation among OPEC member countries to safeguard oil prices.

Meets President, Discusses Iraq

LD0402200893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1727 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, 4 Feb—Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today stressed the need for Iraq to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the war of the liberation of Kuwait, particularly those concerning the release of Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees, and the demarcation of sea and land borders with the State of Kuwait. This was said when President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening at the presidential palace.

Shaykh Sabah handed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani a letter from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah concerning Iraq's prevarication in implementing the Security Council resolutions pertaining to the release of the remaining Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees and to the demarcation of the international border between Kuwait and Iraq.

Sources close to the meeting told KUNA that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed his country's support for Kuwait's just cause, particularly in so far as it concerns the border demarcation and the release of prisoners.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD0402193293 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—Visiting Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday [4 February], termed Tehran-Kuwait relations as friendly and without any problem.

The Kuwaiti official also lauded Iran's unchanged stance on the independence of Kuwait.

Referring to the principled stance taken by Tehran when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, Velayati said Iran's attitude towards Kuwait remained unchanged.

On the whole, Velayati said, the prospect of Tehran-Kuwait relations was promising.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister arrived here today on a two day official visit, carrying a message from Kuwait's Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Deputy Minister Hails Visit

LD0502150193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Tehran, 5 Feb (KUNA)—A high ranking Iranian official hailed the positive results of the talks held here by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, with the Iranian president and foreign minister. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad left Tehran today for Cairo at the end of a two-day official visit to Iran. [passage omitted]

In a statement to KUNA, Ali Besharati, Iran's first deputy foreign minister, described as positive the talks held by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and [Foreign Minister] Velayati.

President Receives Message From Saudi King

LD0402150393 Tehran IRNA in English 1339 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—Saudi Minister of Education Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Abdallah al-Khuwaytir here today submitted President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani a message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud.

Al-Khuwaytir expressed interest in expansion of Tehran-Riyadh relations.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanking King Fahd for the message stressed on the significance of Islamic Iran's relations with regional states, especially with the Saudi Arabia.

He also called for coordination between the petroleum producing countries to achieve the target price set by the Organisation of the Petroleum [Exporting] Countries (OPEC).

"We should all strive to achieve the real price of oil in order to safeguard the interests of our countries, and that of the larger Muslim ummah.

The president also stressed the need for cooperation between the Islamic countries and their unified stand for defending the Muslim "ummah" around the world including support for the oppressed people of Palestine and unconditional return home of all Palestinians deported to Southern Lebanon by the Zionist regime December last.

Talks With Visiting Saudi Minister

LD0402155093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Saudi Education Minister Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir.

At the meeting, the Saudi minister handed over a written message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and expressed his government's desire to further expand cooperation.

Expressing thanks for the king's message and stressing the importance of expanding all-round ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries in the region, particularly Saudi Arabia, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the need for regional countries to coordinate to maintain the price of oil as approved by

OPEC. He added: We must all cooperate to maintain the true price of oil in the interests of our country and the great Islamic community.

The president also stressed the necessity for cooperation and unity between all Islamic countries in defending the Islamic community, defending the tortured people of Palestine, and ensuring the unconditional return of the innocent Palestinian expellees to their homeland.

Foreign Ministry Denies Turkish Minister's Claims

LD0502153193 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry Thursday [4 February] categorically denied allegations levelled against Iran by the Turkish Interior Minister Ismat Sezgin.

Sezgin in an interview on Thursday claimed that "fundamentalists trained in Iran" had carried out political murders in Turkey.

A spokesman for the ministry regretted that some Turkish Government officials, in line with the biased articles appearing in certain Turkish press, were trying to attribute their domestic problems to outside the country's borders.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that Tehran-Ankara ties will follow its normal and growing trend away from political propaganda hue and cry," the spokesman stressed.

Journalist's Murder, Impact on Turkish Ties Viewed

NC0502070993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's Press Conference"]

[Text] In a press conference yesterday, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel discussed journalist Ugur Mumcu's murder and the Turkish press' propaganda attacks against Iran, saying: The various claims published in the Turkish newspapers regarding the culprits of terrorist activities are completely unfounded. Their accusations are aimed at creating a confrontation between the followers of Islam and the supporters of the secular regime.

Prime Minister Demirel's disclosure was meaningful because several Turkish papers saw Mumcu's murder last Sunday [24 January] as an opportunity to provoke the people in Turkey against the Islamic forces in that and other Islamic countries, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is true regardless of the fact that they had no proof or evidence to prove their claims. Considering that 10 secular Turkish politicians and journalists opposed to Islam and the Muslims have been murdered in the last two years in Turkey, the Turkish press has hinted that the culprits of these terrorist activities are members of Islamic forces. Relations between Tehran and Ankara, which improved rapidly in the past few years, have brought to light the fact that several pro-Zionist newspapers and political factions in Turkey have been making strenuous efforts, under the influence of the world oppressors, to create rifts among the Muslim people and harm Turkey's relations with the other Islamic countries, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran.

These newspapers also tried to obstruct the development of relations between Turkey and Iran in the past. The detention of the Cape Maleas, a vessel carrying cargo to Iran some time ago, is a very obvious example of that effort.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani recalled that Iranian-Turkish relations are mostly based on the concept of cooperation, adding, however, that certain elements in Turkey are opposed to improving these ties. These elements are trying to undermine Iranian-Turkish cooperation. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said the two countries must not be misled by them and maintain their relations.

We must recall that one of the principles in Iran's foreign policy is to safeguard and develop Iran's relations with the neighboring and other Islamic countries. In view of this, Iranian officials have disclosed several times that they are ready to strengthen bilateral political, social, and economic relations. That has been confirmed by the fact that the two sides have made to establish joint committees, including one for the struggle against terrorism and drug trafficking—which was proposed by Iran.

As Prime Minister Demirel stressed, certain factions in Turkey are trying to obstruct the development of these relations by holding Iran responsible for Mumcu's murder. Meanwhile, several political observers have not ruled out the possibility that Mumcu may have been killed by circles that had a past problem to settle with him. In fact, they believe that Mumcu may have been the victim of a plot by certain forces that removed one of their opponents and are trying to hold Islamic groups responsible.

Denial Issued on Turkish Correspondent's Death

LD0402160593 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 4, IRNA—Iranian embassy in Moscow in a letter to the Russian daily, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, dismissed Iran's involvement in January 26 assassination of Turkish journalist, Ugur Mumcu.

The letter was in reply to a report in the daily on January 26 in connection with the assassination of Mumcu by Muslim groups. The paper quoted the Turkish security

officials as claiming that probably activities of Muslim fundamentalists in Turkey are directed from Iran.

The embassy statement said that the Islamic Republic of Iran inspired by the lofty values and teachings of Islam and with full respect for human rights, abhors any act which may disturb peace and order in the society.

Condemning any act of terrorism, it refuted the claim saying that such baseless accusations result from the hostile propaganda of certain big powers which make such allegations with political aims.

The full text of the embassy statement was published in the Thursday [4 February] issue of the daily.

Velayati Leaves for ECO Conference in Pakistan

LD0502112793 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, heading a politico-economic delegation, left here for Quetta, Pakistan this afternoon to attend the Foreign Ministers Conference of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The 2-day ECO meet will open on Saturday [6 February] and will survey ways to cement cooperation among the 10-member organization.

Iran, Pakistan and Turkey are the founders of the regional grouping joined lately by Afghanistan as well as the six newly-independent Central Asian Republics of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Velayati Outlines Central Asian Visit

LD0402163093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who visited Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, said in an interview with the Central News Unit on his return today that Iran's cooperation with those republics in the spheres of transport, communications, oil and gas, and private and public sector trade were reviewed during the trip, and that certain agreements were reached.

He added: The method of participation of those republics at regional sessions, particularly the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Caspian Sea littoral states sessions, were reviewed during the trip.

He announced that under the agreements reached, the embassies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan will open in Tehran within the next two months.

Discusses Relations With Iraq

LD0402180993 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, returning from a three nation tour of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan Thursday [4 February], described the outcome of his visit as 'fruitful'. Velayati said during his visits, he had discussed with officials of the three Central Asian republics, ways of promoting Tehran's ties with them and implementation of agreements signed with those states.

The newly-independent countries in Central Asia are interested in cooperating with Iran in a variety of areas particularly transportation and in getting access to world markets via Iran, he said. He cited the establishment of air links between those countries and Iran (the cities of Tehran and Mashhad and Kish Island in the Persian Gulf) as measures so far taken for cooperation in the field of air transport.

He said that the construction of a rail road connecting Sarakhs to Mashhad (in the northeastern province of Khorasan) would facilitate the access of the three Central Asian states to world markets.

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Khazakhstan would like Iran to cooperate with them to exploit and transfer their oil and gas to international markets, Velayati said. He added that there are short and long term plans for transfer of gas from Turkmenistan to Europe via Iran and for carrying Kazakh crude and gas to Persian Gulf.

On Tehran-Baghdad ties, Velayati stressed that the Islamic Republic does not intend to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran [as received] but that "in view of the adverse effects the developments in Iraq can have on internal security of neighboring countries one cannot remain indifferent to such developments."

Commenting on the plight of Bosnian Muslims, the foreign minister said the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has set a deadline for the Serbs to put an end to their crimes against Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said Iran was planning to call on the OIC to seriously encounter Serbian crimes.

During his week-long tour, Velayati met and conferred with the presidents of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the vice president of Kazakhstan and his counterparts in the three Central Asian republics.

He also inked a letter of understanding with Turkmenistan and two with Kazakhstan.

President Meets Visiting DPRK Assembly Chairman

LD0402221493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Yang Hyong-sop, the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] on Thursday [4 February] afternoon. At that meeting, the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK conveyed the warmest greetings of the DPRK leader and president and said: We are very

proud to be in Iran during the auspicious celebrations of the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution of Iran. The Korean parliamentary speaker praised the great efforts of the people of Iran in the construction and development of their country and submitted a report on the very positive conclusion of negotiations he had held with Iranian officials. In conclusion, he informed the president of our country of the interest of the Korean Government and people for the ever-greater strengthening of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for his part, described the DPRK as one of the Islamic Republic of Iran's good and old friends and one that supported Iran continuously after the revolution, adding: We hope the friendship between the two countries continues to grow in the future. The president described the close and friendly cooperation between Iran and Korea as a good example of good relations and mutual respect between two countries. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also welcomed the expansion of ties in all fields of interest to the two countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets With Afghan Official

LD0502144393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq, the deputy leader of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan [Jonbesh-e Melli-Eslami-e Afghanistan], who arrived in Tehran at the head of a delegation of the high council of that movement last night, this morning met Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister in charge of Asia and Oceania. He submitted the written messages of General Dostam, the leader of the National Islamic Movement, to the president and foreign minister of our country.

He also discussed the latest developments of Afghanistan with Borujerdi. The deputy leader of the National Islamic Movement thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts during the difficult Islamic jihad period of Afghanistan and for the current assistance of Iran to the Muslim people of that country, saying: The National Islamic Movement played an important and basic role in the disintegration of the previous communist regime and the conquest of Kabul. Currently, the movement believes that the clashes must end as soon as possible. The reconstruction of Afghanistan must start with the establishment of stability and calm. Continuing his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq added: We regard cooperation with Iran, as a large neighboring country of Afghanistan, as of great importance. We hope the Islamic Republic of Iran continues its efforts in solving the problems of Afghanistan.

For his part, the deputy foreign minister in charge of Asia and Oceania said: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes in the need to maintain the territorial integrity and unity of Afghanistan and will continue its efforts to end the clashes, establish stability and calm and dispatch aid to the suffering and oppressed people of Afghanistan.

Commentary Urges Afghan Groups To Compromise

LD0402153493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Station commentary: "The Afghan Groups Should Compromise"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Political analysts believe that if the opposing and rival political forces insist on their stands, the present clashes may turn into total war.

In reality, the use of arms is not an appropriate way of ending the Afghan tragedy. This is because there are so many different groups with many differences between them, but, most important of all, because they are all armed.

The present events in Afghanistan indicate that the country has a long way to go before peace and stability can be established. Nevertheless, the government and other jihadi groups should seek ways of returning peace to the country.

Islamic Iran believes that peace and stability in Afghanistan can be achieved only through compromise and the rationalization of demands. Therefore, the jehadi groups would be wise to lay down their arms, arm themselves with reason, and react positively to Iran's realistic ideas expressed during our deputy foreign minister's visit to Afghanistan. Only then will Afghanistan achieve peace and stability.

Muslim Interests in India Discussed

NC0502142493 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 28 Jan 93 p 16

[Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani commentary: "India and New Interests"]

[Text] 1. What is happening in India? We see that the confrontation with Muslims has become serious and that extremist Hindus are acting as vanguards of the "Islamic cleansing" movement, which has picked up momentum after the destruction of the Babri Mosque and which definitely enjoys the government's extensive behind-the-scenes support. Today in India fetid remarks are heard that: "Indian Muslims used to be Hindus. They should either return to their old religion or be annihilated!"

Britain and Russia, on the other hand, are showing renewed interest in India and are speaking of India's important regional role. Are these two issues linked?

2. To date, India's official slogan has been "secular" rule under the umbrella of which thousands of various religious sects have led a respectable life in this populous land. This slogan was respected, up to a certain extent, by deeds too. A new course has apparently been charted for Indian politicians. Have they suddenly realized, at the

end of the 20th century, that the only way to reach happiness and solve India's problems lies in the complete revival of Buddhism and in the annihilation of other religions? Anyone unacquainted with Indian politicians will find it hard to accept that this "profound spiritual change" has taken place. The other point that should be noted is the strengthening of the idea of turning India into a superior regional power; and all the problems of the world stem from this idea of "superior."

3. Why does India want to become a "regional superpower?" Apart from the temptation of power and gaining economic and "easy" benefits, we should also look at India's global position. It wants to become a member of the club that claims world leadership. In other words, the gist of the philosophy is that the world should be ruled by a club of countries. India is demanding its share, which is firmly linked with the map of India. However, world developments concerning India have made the West think of new plans, the most important of which is confronting the extensive wave of Islam and harnessing China. As far as China is concerned, the Westerners wanted to do exactly what they did to Gorbachev and the Soviet Union to Deng Xiaoping and Chinese rule. This, however, was not possible, and China is continuing its path toward economic and political changes. Today it is a serious obstacle to America's plans in the Pacific. This threat can be clearly seen when we consider the maneuverability possibilities that Japan has in the region. If the United States can harness Japan's activities within the framework of a comprehensive Pacific plan, Tokyo can play its card.

4. Harnessing Islam? This is an inauspicious role that the West and Russia expect India to play. India's geographic position has further fanned the flames of this temptation. The explicit but behind-the-scene government support for the extremist Hindus bespeaks a dangerous policy. By maintaining its secular facade, the government wants to crush Islam and Muslims under the label of security. None of India's expectations have much of a chance to be fulfilled. India's hopes to receive extensive Western assistance is merely a mirage, and the most that it can achieve will be the "further opening" of Western markets for Indian goods. This will only place India into an arena of competition in which it can definitely not expect any miracles.

However, confronting the Muslims will strike a serious blow to India, which cannot ignore the rights of about 150 million of its citizens. This will threaten the basis of security. Meanwhile, India should be able to lead a life in the region. If it is not a "superior" power at least it can be a respectable member of the regional and global family. Why have the Indian statesmen ignored the significance of good relations with the Islamic world? Why should India act as the West's shield? Why should India face the rage of the oppressed Muslim ummah? Today no one can ignore the significance and the future of the immense phenomena of Islamic revival. The world should bow in front of this immense ideological-political renaissance and respect it. Ignoring this, or—even worse—confronting the movement of Islamic revival will only strengthen the roots of this movement.

German State Minister Views Nuclear Power Plant

NC0502113593 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Jan 93 pp 1, 15

[TEHRAN TIMES City Desk report]

[Text] A German state minister said yesterday that "Iran is a stable country and the prospective foreign investors will have no problem for business here."

Germany's Baden-Wuerttemberg's Minister of Economics, Dr. Dieter Spoeri said, "We have no problem in Iran for the investment but because of the crisis in the region there are some reservations from the investors."

Spoeri referred to Iraqi President Saddam and said, "We are hearing mischievous news from that country which gives the impression to the foreign investors that there are crises in this region."

Wearing a smile on his face Dr. Spoeri said, "You know that foreign investment is just like a wild deer which slips away when it sees the crisis."

Dr. Spoeri was addressing a press conference after the inauguration of a symposium on the Technological Company at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines.

He said that Saddam is the main reason for the crisis in this region and underlined the fact that "Iran's role for the settlement of the issues in this region is decisive."

The German minister during his stay here met with a number of officials including Minister of Industry Gholamreza [as published] Ne'matzadeh, Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji and Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mostafa Mo'in.

On the construction of the atomic reactor at Bushehr, south of Iran the minister explained the policy of his country which prohibits the construction of such a plant anywhere in the world.

"We are not against Iran, as the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the major trade and economic partners of our country," Dr. Spoeri said.

He referred to conflicting version of the officials views on the provision of the foreign investment and said, "One factor we should not forget is that the foreign investors do not take risk."

In answer to a question, Deputy Minister of Industry Dr. 'Ali Asghar Towfiq echoed a recent statement of the Iranian Ambassador to Bonn Hoseyn Musavian who said that foreign investment is allowed in Iran to any extent.

Dr. Towfiq said, "Mr. Musavian is right and we have laws in the country and the foreign investment can be made to any extent unlike the previous law which envisaged only 49 percent share for the foreign investors."

The German minister emphasized on the extensive training for the better industrial production result and said that he offered both private and public sectors to send the experts for advancing training.

He said that it was decided by Iran to send some experts for advanced training in different fields. He offered the same facilities to the private sector.

Earlier the seminar was opened in the presence of Minister of Industry Ne'matzadeh, several top business executives and government officials.

Baden-Wuerttemberg is in the south-western corner of Germany. The majority of major industries are located within a radius of just 700 km of its capital, Stuttgart.

Officials Hold Roundtable Talks With Foreign Guests

LD0402154293 Tehran IRNA in English 1312 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—Islam is capable of responding to all human needs and all Muslims should endeavour to revitalize the Islamic ruling throughout the world, Majles deputy Mohammad Javad Larijani said here Wednesday [3 February].

Larijani speaking to foreign guests on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran, said Islam prescribes a particular type of government system, and what is now worrying the Western world is the revival of Islam and Islamic laws.

Terming leadership as one of the most important issues in Islam, he said the Islamic system is responsible both for leading the society and maintaining its security.

The former deputy foreign minister said Iran's relations with other countries are based on mutual respect for mutual interests.

On the struggle of the Iraqi people, he said Baghdad cannot accuse Iran of interfering in its internal affairs, because the Baghdad regime committed the most savage crimes during its 1980-88 aggression on Iran.

"It is a matter of pride that Iran is considered a safe haven for the Iraqi people," he said.

Meanwhile, 'Ali Reza Moayyeri, president's advisor for international affairs, told the guests that Iran has been subject to elaborate attacks from global arrogance since the revolution triumphed in 1979.

"These attacks reveal that arrogance cannot tolerate freedom and the movements of Muslims to end the exploitation of the rich natural resources of Islamic countries," he added.

He said Iran supports all Islamic movements, and that's why the Islamic republic has been the target of the global arrogance's anger.

Moayyeri hailed the death sentence passed by the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, against the British apostate Salman Rushdie, and described it as in the interests of all Muslims throughout the world.

"This was one of the principle moves of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he made it clear.

Asked on the Iran's role in settlement of the Karabakh conflict between the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Moayyeri said Iran has been trying to end the clashes between the two republics.

"We are of the opinion that the two countries should return to the previous situation and their rights should be preserved," he added.

Visiting Sudanese Education Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat who was the third speaker of the session, said his country has been "under siege from the world of blasphemy" simply because it is trying to implement divine rulings and Islamic shari'ah.

"It is for this reason that we are accused of interfering in the internal affairs of Egypt, Tunisia and certain other countries," he added.

Sabdarat saying that the main target of these attacks is the Islamic ummah, reiterated: "We will decisively stand against these plots."

Vice-President for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Ataollah Mohajerani who was the next speaker referred to the intifadah in Palestine and said the uprising began with two distinct features following the defeat of other groups which compromised with the Zionist regime.

The Islamic nature and popularity of the movement awakened the people of Palestine. "We are now witnessing the manifestation of Imam Khomeyni's causes throughout the world including Africa and Palestine," he pointed out.

In answer to a question as whether Iran's relief aid has reached Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mohajerani said a secure air or land route is needed for the delivery of all of Iranian aid to the Balkans, and the Islamic republic is continuing its efforts in this respect.

U.S. Demands for Establishing Ties Viewed

NC0502081593 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 93 p 2

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "In the Margin of the Conference on Iran-U.S. Relations Under the Clinton Administration"]

[Excerpts] The change in the level of diplomatic relations between two countries or the establishment of relations between countries that had not had relations for a long time is dictated by a change of circumstances or a change in the stance of one of the two sides. [passage omitted]

A conference was convened in Washington with Iranian and foreign professors and experts in international affairs to discuss "Iran- U.S. relations under the Clinton administration." The conference, which gave an overt recommendation to Iranian officials to change their stance, revealed the following:

A. The principles of the future principles of the Clinton administration regarding Iran, as proposed at this session, clearly indicate that the United States does not intend to change its attitude toward Iran; rather, it is seeking to change Iran's outlook. Let us view the basis of this policy, as proposed at this conference:

1. It is essential that Iran understand that the change in the U.S. Government is a new beginning and a fresh opportunity for a change in relations.

2. For such a change to take place, the two sides should seek common ground and talks should begin on simple issues before moving to complex ones.

3. The tension over relations should be defused and talks should be prolonged without fanfare.

4. Iranian officials should relinquish their sensitive attitude toward the United States as a first step in forging relations.

5. Iran should accept the reality of the United States as an international superpower.

6. Iran should continue its recent policy of adjustment [ta'dil] to the radical and Islamic movements in the region.

7. Iran should continue to view human rights as a sensitive ethical issue and pursue it accordingly.

8. The Salman Rushdie issue was a decree within the confines of the late leader of the revolution's domain and should not be linked to the government's political stances.

9. In the event of a clash between international law and the Islamic shari'ah, preference should be given to international law.

10. Releasing Iran's assets and lifting the embargo on trade with the United States would result in upgrading the level of realism in the Iranian Administration and will thus foster a realistic attitude in Iran.

These points are the basis of the future U.S. policy with regard to Iran, all of which recommend that Iranian officials relinquish their current stances and bow before the expansionist aims of the U.S. superpower, which does not abide by any laws. Most of the points are threats, not recommendations.

Should not our foreign policymaking apparatus answer these ambiguities? The claims made by the speakers at this conference have created ambiguities that require clarification or answers to elicit public confidence in the formulators of the country's foreign policy. This is especially necessary because one of the speakers mentioned his talks with one of our foreign policy officials and cited him as being in favor of relations with the United States.

Do we not need to elicit such confidence? The last word belongs to the great leader of the revolution, and he has recently said very categorically that the Islamic Revolution will never mend fences with the powers of world arrogance. Does this reduce the responsibility of the nation's official apparatus?

We see that the United States wants us to change our view. Have we asked ourselves why it wants us to do so? Are we curious as to why the United States does not change its attitude or actions, but openly—through the various elements affiliated with it in academic circles—asks us not to attribute world problems, especially those of the Third World, to it?

This makes it obvious that the United States is not seeking to change its savage nature, but considers the only way out of the impasse is to create a change in the other side's view. If our view changed, it would strengthen the "line of compromise," which is the greatest danger to the future of our national security. This danger is far greater than a military threat.

B. What do the latest reports state? The Americans strive to project that they are willing to make some concessions and use political flexibility instead of the language of threats and intimidation. Yet, as the conference is convened, we see the United States stepping up its activity among counterrevolutionary elements abroad to reorganize them. Some of the heads of these groups have long meetings with Clinton's deputies. So it is obvious that the United States believes in exerting political pressure along with levers of diplomacy against us and intends to capitalize on both.

We also notice that the objective of blurring Iran's territorial integrity has not been forgotten and that the issue of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf is still being pursued. The U.S. attack against Iraq took place on the dubious pretext of warding off an Iraqi attack on Kuwait. What other reason could there be than to convey the impression of a disruption of the regional

power equilibrium between a weakened Iraq and Iran? On this pretext, didn't it want to implement a plan to weaken Iran as well?

These moves show the other side of the coin and clarify how determined the United States is in its objectives, sparing no effort to achieve them.

C. The new world order imposes itself on every country that resists it. The United States is behind this process. If the new world order could have distributed power justly, today there would have been no need for such threats or recommendations. [passage omitted]

If we viewed the issue more closely, we would see that Iran is considered the pivot of Islamism, which is an immutable reality that the United States cannot deny or even rein in. Inflicting a blow on Iran and the political absorption of the country into the U.S. sphere of influence would help toward a decline of Islamic movements or radicalism, as it is called in the West. But Islam is cresting in other countries beyond Iran's frontier and no program can be devised to bridle it.

The first step would be to drag Islam from its pinnacle; it can be combated on a "level" but never at its "pinnacle."

We see Iran—by its adherence to the shari'ah and Islamic laws—presenting a new model to a world thirsting for the culture of pure Islam. This affirms that international laws and regulations cannot ensure peace and justice for contemporary mankind. [passage omitted]

We can see what our obligation is in light of such recommendations, which the great leader of the revolution has spelled out. In his latest address, he said that if a country bows before world powers, the powers of world arrogance not only withhold concessions, but audaciously demand more privileges.

A conspicuous example is the former Soviet Union. Our late imam reminded Gorbachev that he should not be dazzled by the mirage of the West and warned him about the deception. We saw that as Gorbachev drew closer to the United States and made more concessions, U.S. avarice and greed could not be mitigated. This avarice only subsided with the dissolution of the former Soviet Union.

UK Support for Rushdie, Moves on Arms Embargo Noted

LD0402185293 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] London, Feb. 4, IRNA—The British Government took the unprecedent step Thursday [4 February] to publicize its support for apostate Salman Rushdie in a specially-convened meeting with Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg.

The meeting, the first-ever to be acknowledged by the Foreign Office, followed earlier denials that it had endorsed the Indian-born author's recent high-profile trips abroad and where he had been received by British ambassadors on three occasions.

At Thursday's meeting, Hogg was said to have reassured Rushdie that the UK Government "remained greatly concerned by the continuing failure of the Iranian authorities to repudiate" the Islamic fatwa issued on his life by the late Imam Khomeyni.

This failure, a Foreign Office spokesman said, "inevitably prevented the establishment of full and friendly relations between Britain and Iran." Such relations, he said, were "desired" by London.

The same sentiments were expressed by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in Strasbourg on Tuesday and came after Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani repeated once again last Sunday that the fatwa was a matter of religious jurispudence.

When relations between the two countries were restored two years ago, it was understood that Britain accepted that the fatwa was a religious decree that cannot be revoked and it was noted that the Foreign Office call was now to "repudiate" the decree.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that it was now four years since the fatwa was issued and that the British Government "thought it right to demonstrate our public support for Rushdie's fundamental rights by holding this meeting."

He maintained that the government would "continue to support all constructive efforts to resolve this issue, including action in the international fora."

The refueling of the dispute coincides with moves by Britain to extend its arms embargo against Iran to include high technology, following requests from the U.S.

The British Government is also thought to be under pressure from Israel to take a more hostile line against Iran, given its opposition to the Zionist regime and its scepticism about the so-called Middle East peace process.

Ahmad Khomeyni Rejects Pressure To Compromise Revolution

LD0402141693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpt] On the fifth day of ceremonies honoring the 14th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, foreign guests who are in Iran for the occasion today visited the house of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be admitted to paradise—at Jamaran, and were then received by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

At the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni referred to the global achievements of

Iran's Islamic revolution and said: The reduction of hegemony and socio-economic expansion are two of the major objectives of the Islamic revolution. Today, our country, guided by the esteemed leader of the revolution, and the endeavors of the system's officials, has moved on from the era of the imposed war and entered a new phase which is, without doubt, the object of hope and comfort for Muslims throughout the world. He said: We are determined to bring about certain conditions from the economic, social, and cultural standpoints, and to turn Iran into a model for other Islamic countries. The creation of these conditions is a huge task but we think that, by relying on the undiminishing divine force and the resolve of the Iranian nation, this will not be too inaccessable an objective.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni continued: Western propaganda apparatus' efforts to present a distorted and incorrect image of the Islamic Revolution was a calculated move to mislead world public opinion. He remarked: Iran's Islamic Republic, contrary to the image drawn of it by the Western news media, has not picked a fight with any country. We have always extended a freindly hand toward other countries, but we will not be bullied into compromise over the principles of the Islamic Revolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni considered that a military attack, an economic blockade, and the cultural and propaganda onslought of the enemies against the Islamic Revolution were brought about because of the Iranian people's call for Islam and justice. He said: The imam and the esteemed leader of the revolution declared to the world of arrogance as a whole that if they stand against our religion, we shall stand against all of their world. [passage omitted]

Commentary Defends Execution of Drug Smugglers

LD0402145693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Station commentary: "Execution of Drug Smugglers Benefits Europe"]

[Text] Following extensive intelligence operations, a huge international drug gang was smashed on our country's eastern borders and five tonnes of morphine was seized.

The smugglers planned to transfer the morphine from Afghanistan to Iran and from there to Turkey, in order to distribute the drug consignment across Europe. The consignment of morphine discovered was estimated to be worth 1.2 billion tomans.

Because of the activities of smugglers and insurgents, our country's eastern border has recently been the scene of a number of clashes; as a result, many insurgent leaders were arrested and sentenced to death by the courts.

This year, the security of our eastern borders and the importance of fighting large drug caravans is a top priority for the law enforcement forces.

In this context, one of the important bases of the smugglers and insurgents was destroyed, and 54 of the mercenary smugglers were killed or arrested.

But the recent intelligence operations which led to the discovery of the five tonne morphine consignment were not only significant from an internal point of view; they were also a significant part of the international fight against drugs.

There is no doubt that the morphine consignment was not intended for Iran; derivatives of the drug are in great demand in Europe, where they have ensnared millions of young people.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has continued to implement preventative measures in the fight against, and prevention of, addictive substances, and in this context has called for greater support from international organizations.

On this basis, any kind of firm stand, such as the execution of drug smugglers, will be effective in reducing the importation of narcotic substances to Europe, and consequently will prevent youths from becoming involved with them.

Therefore, by destroying the morphine gangs and executing their leaders we are clearly helping these societies and their affiliated human rights organizations.

Those who say that by executing the drug smugglers the Islamic Republic of Iran is violating human rights are not aware of the wickedness and mischief of these criminals. These criminals are corrupting society and destroying people's peace and rest.

There is no doubt that law enforcement forces will continue their struggle against and destruction of the armed caravans of smugglers. But in this context greater attention should be paid to our country's eastern borders and to the expansion of border stations and control posts.

* Dollar Floats Upward in Comparison to Rial

93AS0443M London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] The rate of the floating dollar vis-a-vis the rial this week suddenly rose to 149.7 tomans to the dollar. The price of the dollar on the free market also was fluctuating between 157 and 159 tomans to the dollar. Foreign currency and financial experts announced the reason for these sudden changes as the increase in the rate of the floating dollar by the Central Bank of Iran. 'Ali Pakpur, the well-known money changer who resides in London, told KEYHAN: Last week, the Central Bank raised the rate of the dollar twice, and this caused a decrease in supply and an increase in demand in the market. Pakpur

also said: Today, European foreign currencies have become a little stronger vis-a-vis the dollar, which is the reason for the increase in the price of the British pound and the German mark.

* Reza'i's Long Military Wish List From China

93AS0443A London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] General Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC], in his one-week visit to China, carried out detailed negotiations with the defense minister and the joint chief of staff of that country concerning the purchase of new weapons, especially new battleships for the Iranian Navy.

In this visit, which lasted from Sunday, January 3, to Sunday, January 10, included officials of various Navy, Air Force, Army, and IRGC divisions. The details of the negotiations of Reza'i and his companions with "Lt. Gen. Zhang Wannian," the commander of the Armed Forces of China and the minister of defense of that country, have not been revealed yet. [sentence as published] But the Chinese have not denied the nature of these negotiations, which are based on the purchasing of arms. China is among the main sellers of arms to the Islamic Republic and holds fourth rank in this regard in the world. Among the weapons that China has been selling to Iran for years are Silkworm missiles and F-7 jet fighters, which this time are included among Mohsen Reza'i's purchases. But reports indicate that the purchases of the Islamic Republic from China this time are mostly to equip the Iranian Navy. In fact, since the Tehran government has gained peace of mind with the purchase of submarines from Russia, now it is trying to equip itself on the water.

According to the military experts of the London Strategic Studies Institute, in the past two years, the regime of Iran has invested agreement deals on procuring military equipment from Russia, Ukraine, China, and North Korea. The clearest purchases of Iran from the northern neighbor during this period have been the MiG-29 fighters and "T-72" tanks. The purchasing list of Mohsen Reza'i that he has taken along to Peking includes armored vehicles, transport airplanes, gunboats, and small battleships. In the opinion of the experts of the Strategic Studies Center, Iran's goal in strengthening its navy is to expand its influence under and on the surface of the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

Experts believe that if there is a conflict over the Persian Gulf islands, it will be in the air and on the sea.

These experts also say: Western countries consider the reconstruction of the armaments in Iran a threat to Western interests and the security of the Persian Gulf countries. But from the perspective of Iranians, that country has not modernized its military equipment for 20 years, and in the course of the eight years of war with Iraq has lost a major portion of arms that were procured during the late shah's time.

Iran's reasons, from its own perspective, for procuring so much military equipment is that in the north, the newly independent Central Asian republics, which are mostly areas of unrest (such as Tajikestan), or Armenia and Azarbaijan are the neighbors; in the east Afghanistan, which is in a civil war; and in the south, the old enemy, Iraq. Hence, Iranians think that they are constantly facing potential threats from every direction and for this reason, consider expanding their military power their legal right. In the area of nuclear activities, Iran has caused worry for the Western countries, especially the United States. Last year, during his visit to China, Hashemi-Rafsanjani signed an agreement to establish a 300-megawatt nuclear power plant. But the Americans insist that Iran, with the help of the Chinese, is busy procuring nuclear weapons, whereas the regime of the Islamic Republic denies this and says that its intention in purchasing the nuclear power plant is for peaceful purposes. At the present, it is not clear whether or not Mohsen Reza'i has also negotiated about nuclear cooperation with the Chinese.

* Paper on SALAM's Forecast of Regime's Fall

93AS0443D London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 12

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] SALAM newspaper, the serious opponent of the "economic-modification" policy and expedient supporter of a decrease in the cultural pressures, in an article entitled "Could Anyone Believe?" discussed the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the fate of Gorbachev, but the implications refer to the present conditions of Iran. As the saying goes, it tells the door for the wall to hear, or, in a literary sense, it is more pleasant for the secret of the beloved to be told in references made to others.

The above-mentioned newspaper begins with this phrase: If five years ago someone would have told Gorbachev that with the policy that he was pursuing, he would destroy a country, he would have answered: "Today is the day for work, forget the slogans, forget the past."

Work, abandon the slogans, and forget the past are more or less what Rafsanjani and the supporters of "economic modification" say. SALAM newspaper warns that if the present policies of Rafsanjani continue, the same will happen to the Islamic Republic as happened to the Soviet Union: "The level of inflation in 1991 compared to 1990 increased by 200 percent, and in 1992, by 330 percent. The value of the ruble has decreased 280 times, the brain drain has increased from 401,000 annually to 500,000 annually, and it is projected that it will reach 7.5 million people in 1995, whereas the economic value of

these forces are tens or hundreds of times the amount of money that the West and the United States might give in loans to Russia."

In conclusion, SALAM asks: "What was special about the economic policies of Russia and the former Soviet Union that brought the country to this situation?" And it answers: "In one sentence, it can be said that it was acceptance of the market policies in the economic arena."

It is an interesting way of thinking. The operators of SALAM or the supporters of the central government economic policy think that it was possible to continue an economy of this kind that had reached its end in 70 years for another 70 years and blame it all on Gorbachev, who appeared to have been in a dream from which he awoke and thought of changing the economic system of the country.

The reason for the anxiety of SALAM and all the operators of the Islamic Republic can well be understood. With the "economic-modification" policy, Rafsanjani will necessarily free the forces that he will most likely not be able to harness again, in the same way that Gorbachev, if he had another solution, would not have become involved in such a great risk. It would be better for the operators of SALAM to sit and think and make a comparison, a comparison between Gorbachev and those poor people who wanted to stop the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the central economic system with a coup d'etat and could not. By arriving at a conclusion from this comparison, Rafsanjani will, in any case, have a better future than those who try to stop the inevitable economic changes by any means possible.

* Central Republics To Form Common Market

93AS0443K London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan are preparing to establish the "Union of Central Asian Nations." In a meeting of the leaders of these countries, which was held on 4 Jan 1993 in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, the participants decided to gradually create a new "common market" in the region by devising a joint tax, customs, investment, and trade policy.

The establishment of this union shows that the Central Asian leaders are very skeptical about the future of the "Commonwealth of Independent States," which was created on 8 Dec 1991 on the basis of the Minsk Agreement in place of the former Soviet Union. The ceremonies to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the "Commonwealth of Independent States," which was supposed to be held early last December in Minsk, has been postponed several times, and it seems likely that the existence of this commonwealth will be forever dissolved.

Under such circumstances, the Central Asian leaders are trying to compensate for the void created by the disintegration of the Soviet Union by strengthening regional ties. Even Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of Kazakhstan, who has so far been a strong supporter of the "Commonwealth of Independent States" has reached the conclusion that the future of his country is linked to strengthening relations with other Central Asian countries. In this respect, the Tashkent meeting can be considered a pivotal point in the evolution of Central Asia and the presence of this region on the economic and political scene in the world.

In these meetings, the leaders of the five countries emphasized retaining their ties to the ruble region, provided the printing of the ruble is not left solely in the hands of the Russians. In fact, most of these countries are preparing to print their own national currency.

The establishment of the "Union of Central Asian Nations" will affect the future formation of the "Economic Cooperation Organization" (ECO) as well. This organization, in addition to the five above-mentioned republics, includes Iran, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey. In the future changes of the ECO, the "Union of Central Asian Nation" will appear as a bloc next to the three powers of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan.

* Investments, Tourism Encouraged in Kish

93AS0443I London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Merchants, private companies, and shopkeepers in the free region of Kish Island are exempt from taxes and customs tariffs for 20 years and will receive subsidies for water, electricity, transportation fees, and other facilities, as well as social and urban services.

Engineer 'Alizadeh, the general manager of the Kish Development Organization, announced: At the present time, 10 Iranian and foreign companies are active on Kish Island. The share of the Iranian side is 51 percent, and the share of the foreign side is 49 percent.

Eng. 'Alizadeh said: The Kish Development Organization invites Iranian and foreign companies to invest in this island in order to turn it into a recreational tourist and international trade center. He said: The officials of the foreign and Iranian organizations can come to Kish directly to become familiar with the trade activities and negotiate with us about the procedures for investment. 'Alizadeh pointed out that domestic and foreign investors can make use of 21-year leases, which can be extended for another 21 years. He explained that so far investors have started building four-and five-star hotels, and one of these, which will have 1,200 rooms, will be built by a foreign investor. 'Alizadeh pointed out: Investors not only will be exempt from payment of taxes for 20 years, but can also bring all their goods onto the island without paying any customs duties and taxes, and only 1 percent of the value of the goods will be collected from the importers for the development of the island. Concerning visas for foreign nationals to enter the island,

'Alizadeh said: Foreigners can stay on Kish Island up to two weeks without a visa. He announced: Soon Alma-Ata tours will be established from Kazakhstan to Kish, and the citizens of that republic will be able to fly directly from Alma-Ata to Kish. According to him, the Baku tours also started last week, and in the first flight 170 Azarbaijanis traveled to Kish.

* Million Dollar Agreement Signed With Malaysia

93AS0443J London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Six projects that have been considered "large," amounting to $54 billion, have been signed between the Qeshm Free Trade Region Organization and the "Akran" Company of Malaysia. STAR, a newspaper published in Kuala Lumpur, which has reported this news and, quoted by IRNA, writes that the projects of this agreement include exploration for natural gas, building hotels, trade, building homes, and building industrial factories.

The agreements were signed in Tehran following negotiations between 'Ali Shams Ardakani, the general manager of the Qeshm Free Trade Region Organization, and the Malaysian "Akran" Company. The time for this project has been set at three years.

It is noteworthy that so far the Qeshm Free Trade Region Organization has signed many agreements in principle with foreign companies and governments, but so far none have been implemented.

* Purchase of AIDS-Contaminated Blood Revealed

93AS0448A London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] In Tehran it was announced that another AIDS patient has died. This is the second time that a patient infected with AIDS has died. However, physicians who did not want their names revealed told KEYHAN that infections with the devastating AIDS disease goes back to the years 1985-1986 when the Iran-Iraq war was constantly claiming victims and wounded personnel who were operated on became infected through the transfusion of contaminated blood, and many of them died in the nation's hospitals.

In the midst of this, it has recently been disclosed that Iran also, along with Greece, Marrakech, Tunisia, and several other countries, is among the countries that have purchased contaminated blood from France.

Physicians and experts consider the fight against the spread of AIDS, which has become alarmingly widespread in Iran, to be "extremely difficult" for technical, religious, psychological, and social reasons, and they believe that the number of AIDS victims in the country is much higher than what officials have announced.

After the official announcement that an Iranian infected with AIDS had died in Mashhad, it is now reported that another patient has died, this time in Rasht. In the scandal of the sale of blood contaminated with the AIDS virus, which is continuing now in France, Iran was not on the list of countries who have received contaminated blood from the French National Blood Transfusion Center. However, the newspaper SALAM reports in its telephone column "Allo SALAM" (Sunday 17 January, 27 Dey) that a man who died of AIDS in Rasht had received contaminated blood brought from France.

A reader called this newspaper and gave the information that his brother-in-law, who was a "very pure and religious human being...became infected by the transfusion of blood that had been brought from France, and finally passed away."

This reader adds that the members of the family of the man who died, whose name was not mentioned, became quite disturbed psychologically. In his death file it says that he "became infected and died...as the result of the transfusion of blood in Rasht."

Health-care and nonhealth-care officials in the Islamic Republic have been silent for years about the spread of AIDS in Iran, whether through blood transfusions or sexual relations. Finally, after several years, they have broken the silence and, admitting the spread of the devastating AIDS disease, they have begun to alert the public and teach ways to prevent it.

For various reasons, including the impossibility for all physicians to make a bedside diagnosis, the unavailability of the test, fear of "loss of reputation," fear of prosecution and religious punishment, and also fear of isolation, the real number of people with AIDS or of those who are infected with the virus but are not sick is not known in Iran.

The minister of health care and treatment has announced that the number of people with AIDS is 211, but other sources have given the number 413.

However, physicians and experts believe that for the reasons given above it is almost impossible to determine the number of people who are sick or infected with this disease, but in any case the number is much higher than officials have announced.

Several physicians who did not want their names given told KEYHAN that those who contracted AIDS in Iran in the years 1985-1986 were identified and placed in treatment. They noted that the hospitals in the southern part of the country themselves witnessed the deaths of several patients infected with AIDS, all of whom were infected through blood transfusions.

In the heat of the Iran-Iraq war, in order to infuse blood to the wounded from the war fronts who were in need of surgical operations, the Islamic Republic imported blood from everywhere in the world, including the nations of Africa, which has the highest amount of contamination.

The aforementioned physicians say that at the same time in Tehran's hospitals the number of AIDS patients was alarmingly high, although in the casualty statistics AIDS deaths were not mentioned for two major reasons, first that many physicians were still unable to make a bedside AIDS diagnosis, and a patient's death was said to be the result of pneumonia, cancer, ... Second, the Islamic regime was very afraid of officially announcing the extensive spread of this disease in Iran.

So far travelers returning to Iran from trips to Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Turkey who became infected with AIDS there through sexual intercourse were said to be the main source of the spread of AIDS in Iran, and although officials sometimes spoke of the spread of AIDS via blood transfusions, this is the first time France has been mentioned in the media as the sender of contaminated blood. Officials have not yet reacted officially to this alarming report.

Dr. Michel [?Garetta], who was chief of the Blood Transfusion Center in France in 1985, is now in prison serving a four-year term for carelessly selling contaminated blood to other countries and for giving it to hemophiliacs in France.

In addition to this, [?Lauren Fabius], prime minister of France and two of his ministers are also involved in this incident and the case on the scandal is not yet closed.

* Ads To Warn Public Against Threat of AIDS

93AS0443N London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 5

[Text] The Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education invited filmmakers and film script writers to cooperate with that Ministry to fight AIDS. The spokesman of the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education said: We intend, with the cooperation of the filmmakers, to send health messages to the people through television and cinema to prevent AIDS. He added: With the cooperation of professional artists, we are making several short films to be shown on television and in cinemas. Also, it has been decided to provide aid for filmmakers who include messages about AIDS and our intended slogans in their films. One of the slogans that will be heard and seen on Iranian radio and television and in cinemas is: AIDS has no cure and no vaccine and is very easy to prevent.

Pakistan

Sharif Returns From Switzerland, Saudi Arabia

BK0402154893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif returned to Lahore this evening after a 10-day visit to Switzerland and Saudi Arabia. During his stay in Switzerland, the prime minister met with businessmen and investors of several countries and attended the world investment forum. He also participated in a seminar on the promotion of investment in the country at Davos and addressed the UN Human Rights Commission session in Geneva.

While in Saudi Arabia, the prime minister met King Fahd in Riyadh and exchanged views with him on the situation in Afghanistan. He was seen off at the Jeddah International Airport by Mecca Governor (Sa'ud Bin 'Abd-al-Muhsin). Earlier, the prime minister and the members of his delegation performed a minor pilgrimage and offered morning prayers at the holy mosque in the holy city of Mecca. The House of God was opened specifically for the prime minister and his entourage, who performed prayers inside the holiest shrine for some time.

National Strike Supports Kashmir Cause

BK0502091393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] A strike is being observed throughout the country and in Azad Jammu and Kashmir today to express solidarity with the struggle of Kashmiri people to attain their fundamental rights. The strike is also aimed at awakening the world's conscience to human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and the need to resolve the Kashmir dispute.

In a message on the occasion, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif called on the nation to show complete solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren who have been waging a valiant struggle for emancipation from Indian subjugation. He underscored the need to expose the harrowing and inhumane atrocities perpetrated by Indian troops against innocent people in occupied Kashmir. The prime minister pointed out that the people in occupied Kashmir have been waging a heroic struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination. Instead of redeeming its pledge to the international community, India has resorted to brutal crackdowns to force the Kashmiris into submission. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif called upon the international community to exert its political and moral influence on India to so that it refrains from the gross violation of human rights in the occupied Kashmir. He also asked the Pakistanis and Kashmiris living around the world to offer special prayers at today's Friday congregations to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people's stand.

The Radio Pakistan correspondent says that public rallies, protest meetings, and processions are being held throughout the country to draw the world's attention to the genocide of Muslims in the occupied Kashmir by Indian forces.

ICO Head Urges Concrete Steps on Kashmir

BK0502111693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference [ICO], Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, has called for concrete steps to enable the Kashmiri people to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance

with relevant UN resolutions. On his arrival in Quetta this morning to attend the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] foreign ministers meeting, he hoped that the Indian Government will find it possible to respond positively to various constructive proposals approved by the sixth Islamic summit for achieving a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He further said the ICO remains deeply concerned over the plight of Muslims suffering from aggression and foreign occupation in various parts of the world.

UN Group Briefed on Rights Violations in Kashmir

BK0502092693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan is committed to resolving the Kashmir dispute peacefully in accordance with the UN Security Council and in the spirit of the Simla Agreement. This was stated by a senior journalist Syed Mushahid Hussain while speaking at the annual meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights [UNHRC] in Geneva yesterday. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are struggling for their right to self-determination, but Indian forces have launched a bloody campaign to crush the popular Kashmiri freedom movement.

Referring to the atrocities being perpetrated on innocent Kashmiris, he said thousands have been killed since January 1990. [Word indistinct] and children are subjected to violence and women are being dishonored to crush the freedom struggle. The latest incident took place in Sopor where, according to international media reports, more than 50 Kashmiris were killed and innumerable shops and houses set on fire. This proves that the occupation force is indulging in a large-scale genocide of the Kashmiri people, which is unprecedented in this region. He said India is now trying to divert world opinion from its brutal and bloody operations in the occupied valley.

Army Chief Stresses Noninvolvement in Politics

BK0302135793 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 30 Jan 93 p 14

[Text] Addressing the officers and soldiers of the Pakistani Army at Zhob, Army Chief General Abdul Waheed said the Army has nothing to do with politics and will play its role as laid down by the Constitution. We have no political ambitions and like other institutions, the Army is loyal to the Constitution. In the past, the Pakistan Army interfered in politics and fulfilled its desire in enforcing martial law, which resulted not only in the division of Pakistan but also seriously endangered the security and stability of the rest of the country. After General Ziaul Haq, the chiefs of the Armed Forces have shown that they are keeping aloof from politics and are discharging their professional responsibilities.

It is a fact not only in Pakistan but in any civilized democratic country of the world that the Armed Forces have no role in politics. As regards Turkey, it has been said that the Constitution itself provides the Army with a political role. But during his recent visit to Pakistan, the former Turkish prime minister, Bulent Ecevit, disclosed that there is neither such a provision in the Turkish Constitution nor is the army's intervention in politics a desirable thing. The Pakistani Constitution also bars the Armed Forces from entering politics, and its intervention has been described as a constitutional violation. However, a number of senior military officers, such as Iskander Mirza, Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan, and Ziaul Haq And, in utter violation of the Constitution, ignored the political and democratic process and imposed martial law. One of its ill effects was the Army's performance.

In 1965, the Army made a foray in Kashmir which ignited a war along the international border. Due to the political mistakes of the military leadership, the situation in east Pakistan worsened. To control it, the Army had to take action. The result was the eastern side refused to be an integral part of the federal setup, and with the help of the Indian army it won independence. The Army had to accept defeat in this adventure. During the third period of martial law, Pakistan lost Siachen and a sense of deprivation dawned in Sindh. Eight years have elapsed since the end of martial law, but the country is not free from its effects. Political instability is in place and the pro-martial law group, which is not ready to accept the democratic process, craves short cuts to power and its maintenance. By all means, it is the responsibility of the Army and its leadership not to become a stooge of this group and to concentrate on its professional responsibilities.

Pakistan is now facing serious external threats. India and its patrons are accusing Pakistan of interfering in Punjab and Kashmir. There is a move in the United States to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. British Prime Minister John Major and Russian President Boris Yeltsin have condemned foreign intervention in India. India has been encouraged by all this. Vexed by the movements in Punjab and Kashmir, India is bent on venting its anger on Pakistan. Under these circumstances, the Pakistan Army should be vigilant. To achieve this, it should keep away from politics and administration and should pay all its attention to making the defense system foolproof. The new Army chief should be praised for his determination.

Defense Minister Discusses Tank Purchase, Upgrade

BK0502144993 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Feb 93 p 18

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 4—Federal Minister for Defence Production Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani on Thursday informed the National Assembly that progressive tank rebuild, upgrade and manufacture programme would incur a burden of 909.6 million dollars on the national exchequer.

The programme of tank manufacture included the production of most modern and sophisticated Al-Khalid 2000 Tank.

The production of Al-Khalid main battle tank would start by the year 1997, stated Mr Bijarani in reply to a question.

"Preliminary prototype of Al-Khalid has already been developed and was presently being tested," he said.

Replying to another question be said that the government intended to purchase about 320 T 72 tanks for the army. Besides purchasing the tanks, efforts were also bing made to acquire spares, support and maintenance capability and transfer of technology.

The minister, however, refused to indicate the exact financial package by saying that negotiations were still under way.

Giving important features of the tank, he said that it was being produced in Poland on original Russia design. It had smooth bore gun of 125 mm caliber with armour protection of similar specification as that of Russian T-72 tank.

To another question, he said that Pakistan Navy had acquired four destroyers, four frigates and one logistics ship on lease from U.S. government. Lease of one of the frigates, he said, had already expired on Jan 31, 1991. An American team was expected to discuss the modalities of return of this ship, he added.

Sri Lanka

Further on Premadasa's Independence Day Address

BK0402151293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Sri Lanka celebrates its 45th anniversary of national independence with the participation of all sections of the community throughout the island in splendor with pomp and pageantary. The main ceremony was held at the Independence Square in Colombo under the patronage of President Ranasinghe Premadasa this morning.

Addressing the nation, President Ranasinghe Premadasa said Sri Lanka won its freedom through the combined strength of all communities. It is only through the strength of that unity that this country could defend its freedom. Every time our people were disunited, we lost our freedom. Recently, we witnessed how the germs of disunity and dissension were sown among our people. As a result, grave conflicts took place. Our freedom came under threat once again. We have now realized the injustices that causes disunity. We have now resolved many of those injustices. Now, we are left with the only outstanding problem—that is the northeast problem. The president said that our democratic institutions are now stronger than ever before. Several measures have been taken to safeguard and protect human rights. People are becoming more and more conscious of the benefits of spiritual and moral advancement. Regional cooperation has been strengthened. Sri Lanka has won the goodwill of the world.

Troops Consolidate Positions in Vavuniya Area

BK0302121693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Troops who expanded their control into the hitherto LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist-dominated area west of Vavuniya were consolidating their positions yesterday in the absence of terrorist resistance. Military sources said they were being given every encouragement and support by the people of the four villages they took over on Monday [1 February]. Principal staff officer and JOC [Joint Operations Command] spokesman, Brigadier (Nain Angammana), said that the forces had suffered no casualties since this operation commenced on Sunday morning.

The Tigers had resorted to their usual tactic of retreating in the face of the heavily armed advance. But what is significant is that the 400-odd civilian population of the villages of Madikkalam Palley, Manipuram, Ganeshpuram, and (Samyapuram) abided by the curfew and did not leave their homes. The brigadier said that they have welcomed the presence [of troops] and are being given fullest cooperation everywhere. He added that they in turn are doing whatever they could for them. Another military source in Colombo observed that it had been the practice of the terrorists to retreat whenever the security forces made a fortified advance.

New Foreign Investment Projects Approved in Dec

BK0502113693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The Board of Investment of Sri Lanka recorded a new high in project approval in December with 52 new enterprises with a total investment of 8.7 billion rupees. A spokesman said that these industries would provide employment for 4,000 persons and earn 3.4 billion rupees in the first five years of operation. Total approvals for last year were 291 with an investment of 36.6 billion rupees, up from 111 projects and 16.5 billion rupees in 1991. There are investors from India, Malaysia, Japan, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, Canada, Brazil, and Bermuda.

The factories will manufacture jewelry, textiles, garment accessories, melamine tableware, solar power modules and systems for the rural sector, cultivation of fruits, vegetables, and minor crops in urban industrial infrastructure. A Singaporean company has signed an agreement to invest 3.3 billion rupees on the construction of an office-cum-apartment complex. The first agreement signed for this year was an agreement with Accessory Network Private Limited, which will invest 67.4 million rupees and employ 175 people on polybags, shoulder pads, and hangers needed by the garment industry. It is a 100 percent foreign-owned company and the agreement was signed by Messrs. (Stephen Shatin) and (Elan Uwe), the two investors at the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka.